



THE INDEPENDENT

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Guess which star Helen thinks is a lousy kisser
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THE EYE

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CITY +

TODAY'S NEWS

Brown's new savings plan hits middle class

Gordon Brown last night was accused of squeezing the middle classes with tax increases after announcing that Tessa and PEP savings accounts worth more than £50,000 would be taxed from April 1999. The change is part of government plans to introduce a new Individual Savings Account, which will allow up to £5,000 a year to earn interest tax free. The less well-off will be able to place their money in accounts offered by a range of providers, including supermarkets, but some estimate suggest up to 750,000 richer savers could be hit.

Several million council tax-payers could also be worse off after the Government announced that council tax bills are set to rise by up to 10 per cent next April opening the Government to Tory attacks of tax by stealth. Pages 5 and 25.

Opera House damned

A Commons report is expected today to deliver a damning indictment of the management at the Royal Opera House and call for the resignations of its chairman, chief executive and possibly the whole board. But Covent Garden chiefs are in defiant mood and are expected to resist. Page 3

Turner prize winner

Gillian Wearing, a 34-year-old London artist who made a video of people revealing their innermost desires, has won the £20,000 Turner Prize. Ms Wearing beat an all women's shortlist which included Christine Borland, Angela Bulloch and Cornelia Parker. Page 2

Holocaust fund snub

The government has launched an international fund to help Holocaust survivors with a pledge of £1m. The Americans offered \$4m, with a pledge of \$2.1m to follow. But there was a less than enthusiastic response from some of the 15 countries who stood to benefit from £40m of gold remaining from a Second World War settlement. France, which is owed 2.2 tons, said it was unlikely to hand over its portion. Page 7

A patent fortune

An attempt by the memorial fund of Diana, Princess of Wales, to patent her face is likely to prevent her image being used in cheap merchandising. But it will also allow other celebrities to make even more millions from taking control of their own images. Page 14



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HELVINSON: The Eye, page 12
CROSSWORD: Page 32 and
the Eye, page 9
WEATHER: The Eye, page 10

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Free museums win the first round



Pharaoh deal: A visitor admiring the Egypt collection yesterday at the British Museum, to which the Government has decided to give funds so that it will not have to charge for admission. Full story, page 3

Photograph: Tom Pilston

Terrorist victims were mutilated

The remains of the Luxor massacre victim Joan Turner were eventually flown back to Britain yesterday. The body of her daughter, Karina, is still missing.

Behind the difficulties in identifying the bodies of the family lies the brutal fact that their Muslim fundamentalist killers had deliberately disfigured the bodies of their victims after stripping them. They had been shot in the face after they were dead.

None of the shot Britons were carrying passports or security advice when the six Islamic terrorists carried out last month's attack at the Valley of the Queens in which 58 tourists were killed. The gunmen also stripped them of anything they were carrying which could have revealed their names and addresses.

One Arab source said: "According to witnesses the terrorists were in a frenzy, they

EXCLUSIVE BY KIM SENGUPTA

were chanting and shouting. They seemed to have deliberately shot people already dead in the head and face."

The only way to identify victims is by checking dental records.

The confusion over identifying members of the Turner family caused a lot of added distress for the family. A relation of the Turners had positively identified bodies flown to London as those of Joan Turner, 53, her 24-year-old daughter Karina and five-year-old granddaughter Shaunah.

However, it emerged that Joan Turner's body was in Switzerland - from where it was returned yesterday - and that of Karina was still missing. At one stage searches led to Colombia, only for the Foreign Office to be told that the two bodies sent there had already been cremated. However, neither matched Ms Turner's details, and enquiries are concentrating on Switzerland.

The funeral of the Turners was due to take place last Wednesday, but was halted when Mrs Turner's body proved to be the wrong one.

University crisis as fees scare off students

Universities are to intervene in the crisis over the decline in entrance applications by a direct appeal to every sixth former. With applications for next year down by between 7 and 8 per cent, Judith Judd and Lucy Ward explain how the Government decision to charge tuition fees is influencing would-be students.

Around 400,000 leaflets to be sent out to schools and colleges this weekend will tell sixth formers that a university education is still a good buy despite the introduction of £1,000 a year tuition fees from next September.

The vice-chancellors' committee and the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas), which processes the applications, say that they are sending out leaflets to clear up any misunderstandings about the effect of government policy.

With less than two weeks to go before the official closing date for applications, they want to emphasise that students will still have a good chance of a place even if they apply after the deadline. Last year, around 111,000 students who applied after the deadline gained places.

Confidential figures which went out to universities at the end of last week show that the number of applications from home and EU students processed by Ucas was down by around 10 per cent - from 163,000 to 148,000 compared with the same period last year.

Worst hit are the new universities, with

applications at some down by as much as a quarter, though a few are bucking the trend. The drop is said to be across the board and not confined to particular subjects.

Last Friday, applications for Manchester Metropolitan University were down by 3,214 to 12,742, and those for Northumbria University by 2,027 to 8,308. At Plymouth, applications were down by 2,590 to 8,122.

The leaders of new universities confirmed that students were hanging back from applying, and were agreed that the Government had failed to convince potential applicants over the funding changes.

Dr Geoffrey Copland, the vice-chancellor of Westminster University and chair of the 26-strong Coalition of Modern Universities, said: "There is an apprehension about what is happening in the system on the part of students and their advisers, and the message about the new funding arrangements has not really got across."

"Students who are serious about going to university are not being put off, but people who are a bit uncertain are hedging their bets at the moment."

At the University of East London, applications so far are marginally down on last year, though the picture so far has been "volatile".

The vice-chancellor, Professor Frank Grunder, also believed the Government had "lost the propaganda war" to opponents of fees. "There has been a lot of publicity, marches and demonstrations from the antis, and a fairly cool statement from the Government has not combatuated that."

He thought potential applicants would be reassured by the vice-chancellors' campaign.

Professor Peter Wheeler, pro vice-

chancellor of Salford University, where applications are also down, warned that the funding changes in higher education might deter many able applicants, particularly mature students.

He said: "The decision seems in conflict with the Government's plans to increase participation from those sectors of society which hitherto have not been able to benefit from university education."

A spokeswoman for the vice-chancellors' committee said: "We hope that, as last year, people will apply after the deadline."

"We believe it is inevitable that there will be a certain amount of confusion with such a big change. We hope the leaflet will undo that and give the context of the benefits of higher education."

Tony Higgins, chief executive of Ucas, said: "We are making no statement about figures at all until after the closing date. It is too early to speculate on a single snapshot."

Some long-established universities also appear to be suffering. East Anglia's applications were down by 1,240 to 5,808 and Kent's down by 1,114 to 6,113.

The leaflets aim to expose myths about Government changes to fees and grants - for example, "if I go to university I shall be up to my neck in debt for years".

The universities point out that male graduates earn 30 per cent more and women graduates 40 per cent more than those who go straight from the sixth form into a job.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, wrote to potential applicants a month ago assuring them that the new arrangements would ensure that they had the financial backing that they needed.

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2/BRIEFING

COLUMN ONE

Battle rages for the Napoleonic succession

The Battle of Austerlitz was fought 192 years ago yesterday with cannons and cavalry and guile. The battle of the Napoleonic succession was being fought out in a gentleman's club in Paris last night without so much as a bread-roll. Obscure legal and constitutional argument, precedent and sentiment will probably carry the day.

Members of the Souvenir Napoléon - an organisation dedicated to upholding the memory of the Emperor - were unwilling to discuss the proceedings with outsiders. Especially British outsiders. "Prince" Charles Napoléon, great-grandson of the Emperor Napoleon's youngest brother, Jérôme, is battling for his right to be considered Chief of the Imperial Household. The title is, in legal terms, meaningless but important to nostalgics and, doubtless, useful as a business calling card. When his father, Prince Louis Napoleon, died seven months ago, it seemed Charles, 47, (pictured), who runs a financial services business in Corsica, would inherit the distinction automatically. But the cantankerous, octogenarian prince left a "political testament", saying the succession should pass to his grandson, Jean-Christophe, Charles's son, an 11-year-old schoolboy. The deceased man's motives were twofold, according to his lawyer, Maître Jean-Marc Varaut. Louis Napoleon disapproved of the fact that his eldest son had divorced and remarried without his permission. He also detested his political views, which were, by his admission, "republican and democratic". In an interview yesterday with *Le Figaro*, Charles Napoléon admitted he was a democrat and an ordinary chap. Asked if he would take become a full-time, dispossessed Royal if he succeeded, he replied: "No, my psychological balance wouldn't stand it." He conceded his "personal values" made him feel closer to the early period Napoleon (defender of the Republic) than the later period Napoleon (authoritarian emperor). Certain aspects of the Emperor Napoleon's record, and that of his nephew, Napoleon III (1852-70), should be "judged severely".

This mildly revisionist view of Napoleon is now standard in France. If anything, the academic trend is towards a downward revaluation of his bloody attempts to create a prototype European union (with headquarters in Paris). The winner of this year's Prix Goncourt, the most prestigious literary prize in France, was a novel by Patrick Rambaud, *La Bataille*, which re-creates the battle of Essling, a forgotten and disastrous episode in the Napoleonic wars.

It presents Napoleon as a foul-mouthed, callous bully, driven by vanity and detested even by his closest comrades. In the conservative *Le Figaro* yesterday the writer Claude Jacquemart said it had to be admitted the "Napoleonic adventure" was "an immense tragedy which left France physically and morally exhausted".

This is unlikely to impress the Souvenir Napoléon nostalgicists, holding their annual meeting yesterday, on the anniversary of Austerlitz and also of the coup which brought Napoleon III to power. Charles Napoleon was addressing the meeting to try to persuade his great, great, great-uncle's most devoted followers he was worthy of the imperial lineage. Legally, their approval or disapproval counts for nothing; the battle will continue elsewhere. But, morally, it was essential for Charles to persuade the last remnants of the Grande Armée to follow him.

The onus were not good. He told *Figaro* he wanted to make the Napoleonic tradition "modern and forward-looking". As head of the Imperial household, he would emphasise the republican Napoleon, elected by popular vote, and the constructive Napoleon, who built many of the institutions which serve France to the present day. It is difficult for a mere Briton to judge, but it sounds as if Charles Napoleon's father was right: he is a good democrat but he would make a useless emperor.

John Lichfield, Paris

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PEOPLE



Uproar as video entry snaps up the Turner

Gillian Wearing, a 34-year-old London artist who made a video of people revealing their innermost desires (above), last night won the £20,000 Turner Prize. It was presented to her at the Tate Gallery by Culture Secretary Chris Smith.

Wearing (right) beat an all-women's shortlist which included Christine Borland, Angela Bulloch and Cornelia Parker. Her victory means it is the second consecutive year that a video artist has won the prize. The judges, chaired by Tate director Nicholas Serota, said she had established "a highly personal form of what might be called urban realism" - a confessional art in which she persuades her fellow citizens to reveal their most secret thoughts, fears and desires. This year's shortlist has provoked a large amount of criticism. David Liss, editor of *Art Review*, said Wearing and her shortlisted colleagues "have excelled themselves with their shallow ideas and uninspired execution caused by underestimating the importance of the visual ingredient in art". Ms Wearing's basic medium is photography, still or moving. The judges said that in the tradition of serialism, her work revealed the often strange or disturbing realities that lie beneath the apparently calm surface of everyday

appearances. "It also offers a rich insight into the lives of ordinary people".

In one of her works, "Signs" that say what you want them to say and not signs that say what someone else wants you to say", she asked people in the street to write a sign saying what was on their mind, and then photograph them holding it. In her most recent major work, "10-16", she filmed adult actors lip-synching to a soundtrack to the voices of children aged 10-16. The result was said to suggest both the adult in the child and child in the adult.

David Lister



Drug-case British student has sentence cut

A Moscow court yesterday cut the six-year labour-camp sentence on Karen Henderson, 19, a Briton convicted of smuggling cocaine. Despite protestations of innocence, Judge Natalia Arinkina again found her guilty but sentenced her to one year and 11 months in a camp. Because she has spent 22 months on remand, Henderson will be freed next month.

Henderson, who grew up in the Netherlands and was studying

tourism there before her arrest, said it was a fact that "alien objects" were found in her case when she landed in Moscow from Havana but she was "devastated", because she had "never knowingly carried narcotics". She wept when Judge Arinkina confirmed her predecessor's verdict of guilty. Henderson will be "isolated from society" but, in view of her "personality, youth and lack of a criminal record", the pun-

ishment ought to be softened, the judge said. During the trial an assistant lay judge fell asleep while evidence was being given, and the translation was so bad that Henderson's mother, giving a character assessment of her daughter, was quoted as saying she "sympathised with drug traffickers" when what she actually said was that she felt sorry for those who had become addicted to drugs.

Helen Womack, Moscow

Peace at last for right-to-die woman

A motor neurone disease victim who launched a High Court action to allow her GP to administer pain-relieving drugs which might shorten her life, has died. Former air hostess Annie Lindsell, 47, from Teddington, London, dropped her two-year court battle in October when her doctor, Simon Holmes, said he was willing to carry out the treatment.

Her solicitor, Gai Telow, said: "Annie passed away ... from respiratory failure caused by ... motor-neurone disease. Following her High Court success, Annie was able to live her last weeks of life with a

comforting assurance that if it had proved necessary and she had requested it, her doctor would have been able to lawfully administer distress-relieving drugs that would have shortened her life."

Ms Telow confirmed that Mr Holmes had eventually not used the drugs.

Dr Holmes had refused to administer diamorphine to Ms Lindsell without clarification that the act would be lawful, but changed his mind when medical experts at the court approved of his planned treatment.

UPDATE

RELIGION

Churches win battle to stay open

Proving once again that nothing galvanises a church like persecution, it was confirmed yesterday that all 37 Anglican churches in the City of London are to remain open for worship.

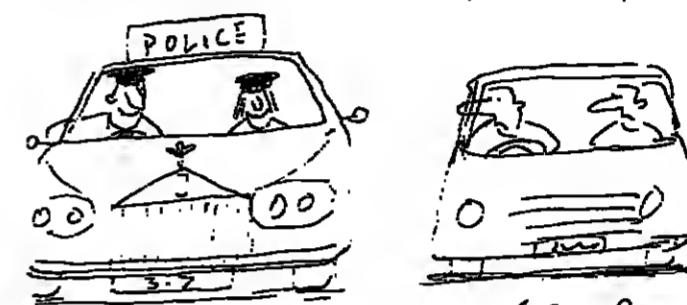
Four years ago there was a hue and cry when the Templeman Commission proposed closing two-thirds of the City churches, many of them designed by Sir Christopher Wren after Great Fire of 1666. The problem was not money to maintain the churches, dwarfed by the glass temples of Mammon, but paying so many clergy for so few regular worshippers.

About 5,000 people live in the Square Mile. However, the incoming Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, was determined to keep all the churches open, albeit for only one day a week in some cases, and yesterday charged a new City Churches Development Group with ensuring they do. Several churches are being kept open by using priests who are semi-retired or draw salaries from other bodies. Stephen Goodwin, Heritage Correspondent

CRIME

Police funding boosted by £258m

Overall funding for police forces in England and Wales is to rise by £258m next year, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, said yesterday. The increase includes the final £40m instalment of extra cash, over and above the resources allocated by the funding formula, which was planned by the former Tory government to pay for more officers. Mr Straw said the settlement, announced in a Commons written answer, meant spending on the fight



against crime across the service could increase by 3.7 per cent next year. "We are determined that the police should have the resources they need to fight crime and disorder across England and Wales." The Home Secretary also announced plans to change the way the police funding formula is calculated. The settlement includes a big increase of £21m - to £151m - in the sum allocated to the Metropolitan Police to cover its special national and capital city functions.

AMENITIES

Facelift for Glasgow park

The oldest public park in Britain and one of great social battlefields of Europe, Glasgow Green, was yesterday given £6.6m from the lottery for a comprehensive facelift. Dating back to 1450 - the claim to be oldest is Glasgow's own - the 136-acre green at the heart of the city was the birthplace of the union movement and temperance movement. It felt the early tread of both Rangers and Celtic football clubs and was the site of the city's first golf club. Altogether 45 urban parks will share a total £11.5m from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Other awards include £915,000 for Hammond's Pond, Carlisle, where a residents' petition has prompted a restoration campaign. £875,000 for Carr Bank Park, Mansfield, where sports facilities and children's play areas will be created and £571,000 for the restoration of Grange Park, near Preston. Stephen Goodwin, Heritage Correspondent

TOURIST RATES

	Italy (lira)	2.857
Australia (dollars)	2.40	24.34
Austria (schillings)	20.40	0.63
Belgium (francs)	59.94	3.26
Canada (\$)	2.33	11.91
Cyprus (pounds)	0.84	295.14
Denmark (krone)	11.12	245.15
France (francs)	9.72	12.82
Greece (drachma)	2.91	2.35
Hong Kong (\$)	463.12	321.53
Ireland (punts)	12.65	1.64
	1.11	USA (\$)

Source: Thomas Cook

Rates for indication purposes only



7.30 FOR 8



by Chris Priestley

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لبنان العربي

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

Bash! Crash! Ahh!
Dandy's 60th
birthday
THE EYE



On the road
with Camille
Paglia
FEATURES

Virginia Ironside's
dilemmas: Should I
move in with my man?
FEATURES

What's wrong
with university
league tables
EDUCATION +

Royal Opera chiefs face up to resignation calls

Royal Opera House chiefs will resist expected calls for their resignations when a House of Commons Select Committee publishes its report today. David Lister, Arts News Editor, finds the mood defiant at Covent Garden.

A Commons report is expected today to deliver a damning indictment of the management at the Royal Opera House and call for the resignations of its chairman, chief executive and possibly the whole board.

The report by the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee will be published this morning. During the committee's proceedings, its chairman Labour MP Gerald Kaufman described the running of the Opera House as a "shambles".

His committee's report is likely to be stringent. Even as it was taking evidence over the last month the House nearly went bankrupt and ticket sales at London venues used while the Royal Opera House is closed for redevelopment have been very poor.

The ROH received £78m of Lottery money, and the former Chief Executive Genista McIntosh resigned in May after only four months in the post.

Mary Allen, the new Chief Executive brought in from the Arts Council by the Chairman, Lord Chaddington, without the post being advertised, said yesterday she accepted that the report would probably have strong things to say. But she stressed that neither she nor Lord Chaddington – as Peter Gummer, formerly PR adviser to the Conservative Party – would resign unless the Government specifically told them to do so.

She said: "I have been here three months and I have done a lot of work to improve the morale of the staff which was very low when I arrived. The most important thing is the welfare of the staff and we should not do anything that will be disruptive."

She also stressed that all the arrangements for the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet during the closure of Covent Garden were made before she arrived.

But she did reveal that the ROH was on course to lose a staggering £10m more than it had budgeted to lose during the closure period, and this on top of its deficit of £5m. This would have driven it into certain bankruptcy if benefactors had not put together an emergency package.

The Select Committee report, which will be considered by the Government, comes just after the Culture Secretary Chris Smith has set up a review body under Sir Richard Eyre, former head of the National Theatre, to explore the possibility of the Royal Opera, Royal Ballet and English National Opera sharing Covent Garden, with the Covent Garden building itself becoming a receiving house.

Mr Smith has also indicated that he has not ruled out the option of privatising Covent Garden on the model of the Glyndebourne Festival opera.

However, Mary Allen pointed out yesterday that such an extreme course of action would run into one immediate problem – the fact that Covent Garden had received £78 million of public money through the National Lottery.

Mrs Allen has already embarked on cost-cutting measures, and will next month announce a slimmed down programme for both the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet.

A hunk he may be, but Helen says Harrison can't kiss



Ford: 'He does try, but it's just not there'



Mirren: 'It's not just me – other actresses agree'

Hollywood heart-throb he may be, but Harrison Ford is no kisser, the actress Helen Mirren has disclosed.

Mirren, 51, who starred opposite Ford in *The Mosquito Coast*, told Zoe Ball and Kevin Greening on yesterday's Radio 1 Breakfast Show that she did not rate the American star's abilities when it came to puckering up.

"In the films he's the nicest, sweetest guy you could want to meet. But he can't kiss – he finds it impossible to kiss on screen. And she added: He's probably not very good off screen either. It's not just me – other actresses agree. Whenever we get chatting off screen and we get around to talking we come to the same conclusion: 'He couldn't do it with me either!' He does try, but it is just not there."

Despite a prolific career, Mirren is probably best known for her television portrayal of Det Supt Jane Tennison in *Prime Suspect*, and she returns to the small screen in a two-part drama, *Painted Lady*, on ITV on Sunday and Monday, in which she plays a very different kind of sleuth – a ravaged blues singer with a pierced nose.

Her real-life partner of 11 years is American director Taylor Hackford.

Extra funding saves British Museum from introducing entrance fees

The Government will give the British Museum financial help to prevent it introducing admission charges. David Lister, Arts News Editor, reveals that the first stage in the campaign to safeguard free admission is on the point of victory.

An increase in funds to the British Museum will be announced next week, *The Independent* has learned. It is specifically designed to avoid the best known museum in the country, and arguably in the world, having to impose admission charges for the first time in its 230 year history.

The change of mind by the Government, which was on the verge of saying it could not give

any museums financial help to prevent charging, follows a high-profile campaign since we revealed 10 days ago that the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, had failed to convince the Treasury of the need to pump extra money into national museums and galleries.

The British Museum's trustees, who include the Prince of Wales, will meet on Saturday. Introducing charges was on their agenda if an extra financial help was forthcoming. They will now hear that a substantial increase in grant is on its way.

The campaign to keep free admission continues today with a letter in *The Independent* signed by 17 artists, including David Hockney, Bridget Riley and Anish Kapoor. They write that museums have been their studios. The artists short-listed for last night's Turner Prize also added their weight to the

campaign, helping to present a petition to the Treasury.

While the British Museum is almost certain to be spared the immediate need for compulsory charges, the problem remains for the National Gallery, Tate Gallery and National Portrait Gallery in London, the remaining national collections that still do not charge.

Of these, the Tate is in the most severe financial trouble and the Government is understood to be looking urgently at a way to help it. The trustees have not yet ruled out charging at the new Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside, London, due to open in 2000. Tate director Nicholas Serota has also indicated that charging at the Tate at Millbank is a possibility unless more money is found.

Whitehall sources say that the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and Chancellor Gordon Brown

have been surprised by the strength of the campaign to keep free admissions, but remain reluctant to put more money into the arts.

Nevertheless, campaigners will be reminding Mr Blair of the speech he made in opposition at the Mansion House earlier this year. He said then: "We are concerned about the introduction of admission charges in national museums. The evidence suggests that high charges can lead to a big decline in attendance."

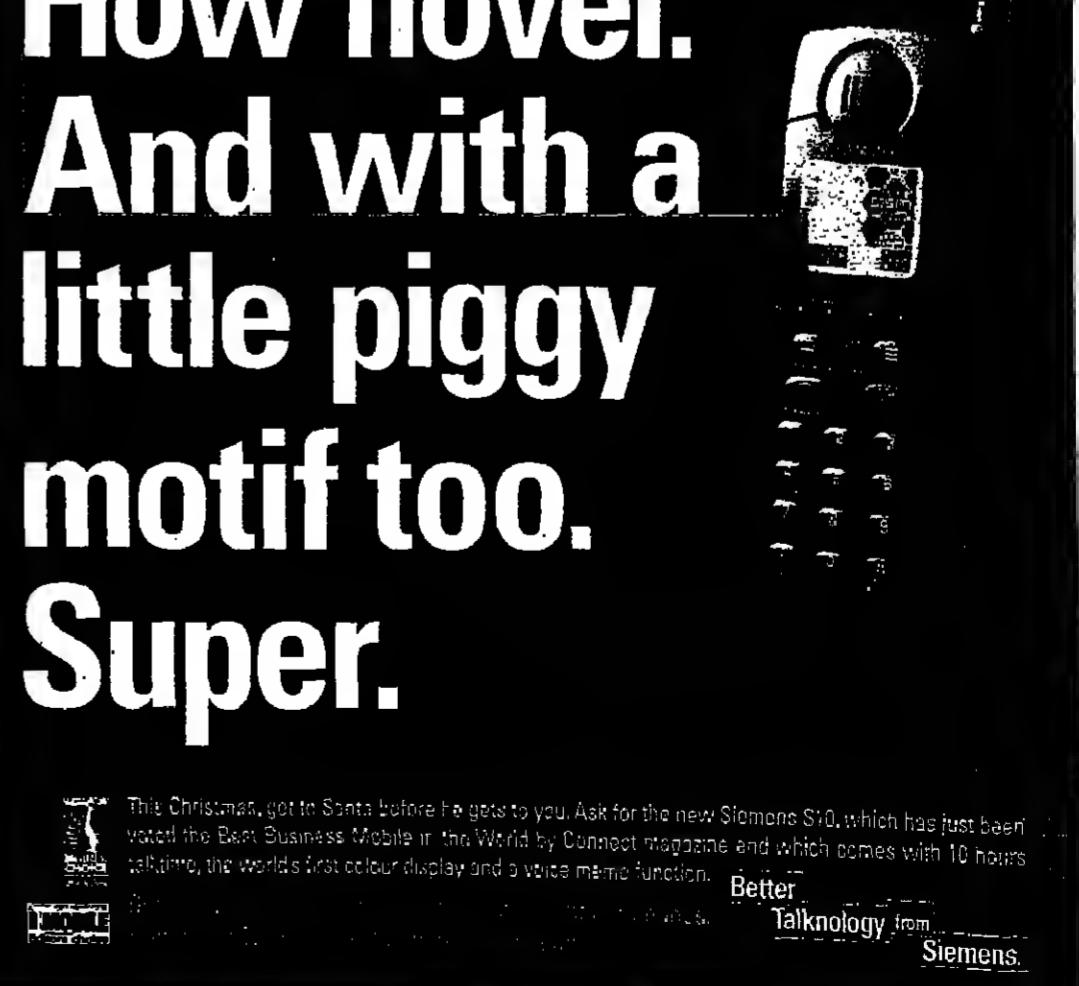
Government help to the British Museum is certain to provoke anger among those museums that already charge.

Dr Alan Borg, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, said he would not tolerate a "hand out" being given to the British Museum while his own museum received no extra help.

Letters, page 22

SIEMENS

Oh...pink fluffy slippers! How novel. And with a little piggy motif too. Super.



Beware of Tubbytouts at Christmas

This year it is the Teletubbies' turn to be the big Christmas toy shortage. Paul McCann, Media Correspondent, delves into a shady world of inflated prices, whispered shipments and Tubbytouts.

The call was answered by a strange voice: "Yeah, I can get you one, £45, ask no questions." And ten minutes later a "dodgy-looking" man appeared at Frank Middleweek's door in Woodford, east London. He had a package under his arm.

Leaving no name and no clue to suppliers, the black-marketeer disappeared into the night. Advertising his Teletubby along with 22 others in London's free ads paper *Loot*. He just wants his £45 back but others are making a killing.

"I'm not exploiting people,"



In demand: Teletubbies have bred a black market

says Andy from south-west London. He picked up a set of four tubbies five weeks ago for a nephew at £14.99 each. Now they're surplus to requirements and he's asking £325 for the set. "If someone's mad enough to pay that kind of money that's fine with me. I'm only asking what others are asking." Andy is by no means the greediest Tubby-

dealer. Another advert in yesterday's paper was asking £100 for one Tinky Winky.

Despite the high prices parents and grandparents determined not to disappoint their little ones are paying up all over the country to sellers in local and free advert papers.

The BBC says that a million Tubbies will have been shipped by Christmas and that the problem is caused by the stores. Teletubby toys were shown at the industry's annual toy fair last January and advance orders were too small.

A BBC spokeswoman denied that the corporation is missing out on millions of pounds of revenue because of the Tubbyshortage. However, *Loot* gives the game away: under the ads for Teletubbies is a form of Thunderbirds Tracy Island, complete with rockets, vehicles and six figures. The toy of two years ago is just £20.

Better
Talknology from
Siemens.

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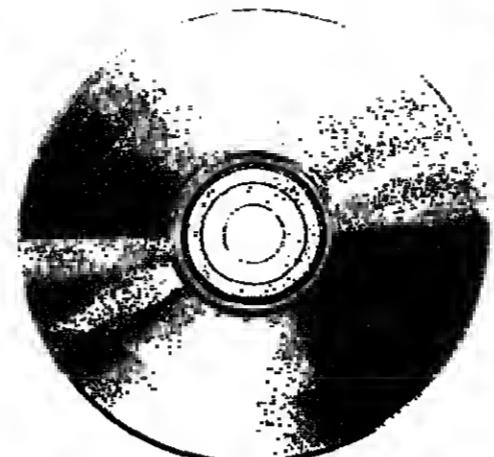
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Army patrols cut back

Army patrolling is being wound down and paramilitary prisoners will receive longer Christmas leave in the latest relaxations in Northern Ireland security policy.

In a new move the army will no longer carry out routine patrols on the streets of Belfast during daylight hours. Troops were taken off the streets in west Belfast last week, and now this initiative has been extended to the rest of the city.

The development is in line with a gradual rundown of security measures since the present IRA ceasefire came into effect in July. Last month the first troops to be withdrawn from Northern Ireland, 250 paratroopers, were flown to England.

RUC assistant Chief Constable Bill Stewart said: "At present there is no routine army accompaniment of foot patrols in the Belfast area during daylight hours. However, as with all security measures, this can quickly be reversed should the situation demand it."

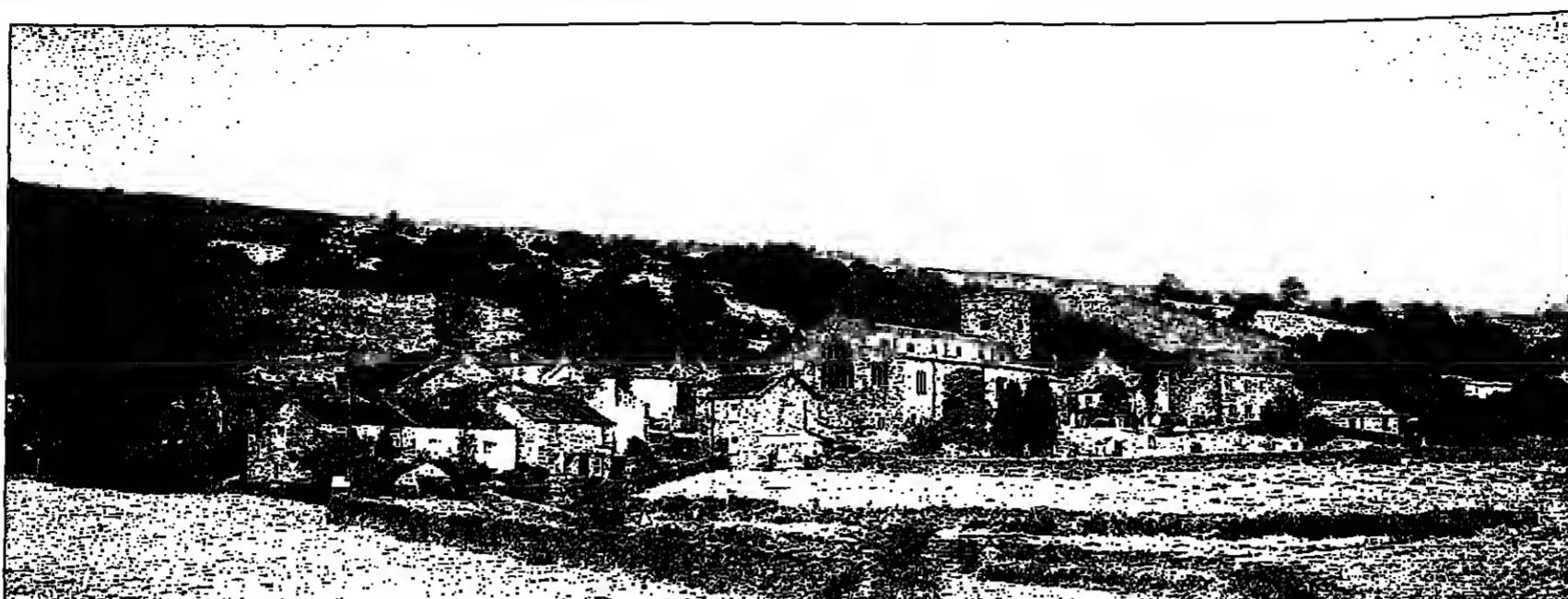
At the same time, around 160 republican and loyalist inmates of the Maze prison will benefit from the lengthening of Christmas leave from seven to 10 days. More than a third of sentenced paramilitary prisoners are expected to take advantage of this.

Sinn Fein welcomed the move but said republicans wanted "significant movement from the government on releases". William Smith, a loyalist spokesman, echoed this sentiment, declaring: "It's time they stopped tinkering with the system and started moving towards getting prisoners out."

At the Stormont talks, meanwhile, the parties have agreed to a suggestion from chairman George Mitchell for a new format intended to inject pace into the process. Each party will now send two senior members to a new working group to identify the key issues ahead.

— David McKittrick

Country life not for the fainthearted



Green and pleasant: But the basic services that city-dwellers take for granted are largely absent in rural areas

Photograph: National Trust

You may need to shop, visit a doctor or post a letter. Unless you have a car in the countryside, you may not be able to.

Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, on why the poor get a raw deal from country life.

tional study by the Rural Development Commission showed "little evidence of improvement in essential facilities".

Despite the lack of services in most villages, public transport has been cut as local authorities' budgets have been squeezed by successive governments. The RDC report found that 75 per cent of parishes surveyed had no daily bus service.

This would be fine if the 11m people who lived in the country all had cars. But recent studies have shown that 20 per cent of rural households are living "beneath the poverty line". Yet 99 per cent of villages in the countryside have no job centre.

Strangely, the lack of services has done

little to stem the flight from urban areas. Between 1971 and 1991, the rural population has grown by 17 per cent, compared with a growth in England of just 4 per cent.

Lord Shunleworth, chairman of the RDC, asked: "What happens to people who can't easily get to their GP, a food shop or indeed a job centre?" The answer to that question is likely to be: nothing. With the Government committed to tight financial targets, there is little room for ministers to resurrect public services.

Without extra financial inducements, rural areas are unlikely to appeal to many GPs. "In order for GPs to make a living they need at least 1,200 patients," said Dr

Hamish Meldrum, a national negotiator for the British Medical Association with responsibility for rural areas. "Most small villages won't have that number."

Bus services are also likely to get worse before they get better. Weekend and evening operations have been cut in Kent, Shropshire and South Wales.

"You might think that by getting people out of cars and into buses where congestion is building up in urban areas is a good thing. But if you then force people to drive in the countryside they will just drive into towns as well," said Caroline Cahm, chairwoman of the National Federation of Bus Users.

Cabbies close ranks over dress code

Clothes may not maketh the man, but they would certainly help driving a taxi in York. However, a strict new dress code issued by a private rail company to the city's cab drivers backfired when the irate cabbies refused to use the station taxi rank in protest.

Under the new arrangement, to come into force by 1998, drivers with station permits must wear smart trousers, have a collar and tie and don "dress shoes" when picking up fares. Those sporting a stubble, would be sent home.

If that was not enough, Great North Eastern Railways, which runs York station,

also wants to raise the cost of an annual permit by 30 per cent from £365 to £510.

More than 100 drivers have boycotted the station. A manager at one firm said: "Some of the lads have just gone on strike. I usually have 60 cabs, now I have just 17."

GNER now appears to be backing down. "As long as the drivers agree in principle, then the company is prepared to negotiate on the dress and permit price," said a spokesman. Under the code, drivers would have to cover up tattoos and would not be able to grow a beard while working.

— Randeep Ramesh,
Transport Correspondent

Damon launches drink-drive campaign

Motorists were urged to have "none for the road" yesterday as the Government launched a £2m Christmas crackdown on drink-driving.

Centrepiece of the campaign – launched by Gavin Strang, the transport minister, and former motor racing world champion Damon Hill – is a new television commercial which shows a group of young people wrongly believing that they can stay in control of cars after drinking. The television commercial will be backed by a radio and cinema campaign.

This could be the last Christmas drink-drive campaign conducted under the ex-

isting legal blood-alcohol limits. The Government said last week that it was holding public consultations on a proposed change that would cut the legal limit from 80mg of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood to 50mg, putting most drivers "over the limit" if they drank more than a pint.

The new limit would be backed by a major expansion of the rehabilitation scheme for drink-drivers. Baroness Hayman, minister for road safety, said: "The signs are that these [rehabilitation] courses are proving to be a real success in reducing re-offending rates."

— Randeep Ramesh

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7/NAZI GOLD

Old allies snub Britain's fund for Holocaust survivors

The Government yesterday launched a fund for Holocaust survivors with a £1m donation, but the scheme immediately ran into controversy. France and the Netherlands seemed unwilling to back Robin Cook's bold idea.

which has been redistributed under the auspices of the Tripartite Gold Commission.

Lord Janner said that not only France, but all of 42 nations at the conference should contribute to the fund. But he found the French position clearly unacceptable.

"It would be unworthy for the great French people to keep everything for themselves, and give nothing for example, for the benefit of Eastern European survivors in dire need."

Yet Abraham Hirschon, who chairs the Israeli Knesset's committee on the restitution of Jewish property, said what was important was the investigation - not the money.

"I don't like the fund because I like the truth," he said.

"What I would like is to know everything that is in the archives then give us back what belongs to us. But don't give us any foundation."

Amid pleas from Jewish organisations, Switzerland and the US that archives should be opened and made available to researchers world-wide, Britain and France came under pressure yesterday to release the Tripartite Gold Commission files, which are expected to detail what the Allies knew of the provenance of the gold captured from the Germans at the end of the war.

But a spokesman for the Foreign Office said it believed the appropriate time for TGC files to be released was when its work was completed. That was expected soon, he added.

The conference aims to investigate what happened to gold stolen by Germany during the Second World War and what happened to it after the war ended. It is examining what compensation has been made so far to individuals who lost their family fortunes in the Holocaust and whether further compensation should be made.

Opening the three-day meeting, Robin Cook said the jigsaw might never be complete, but a clearer picture of what happened to looted gold and other assets was being built.

He said: "We have two duties to the victims of the Nazis. To those who are still alive, we must ensure that the unbearable tragedy of living through the Holocaust is not compounded by an old age marked by the fear and sadness of poverty. We must let them know that the international community is not indifferent to their plight."

"To those who died, we have a different duty - to document the facts, to gather the evidence, to locate the truth. The duty we owe them is to remember."

BY LOUISE JURY

payments to victims of the Nazis and their families.

But France, which is owed 2.2 tons, the largest part of the remaining gold, indicated that it was unlikely to hand over its portion to the fund, although it would be considering whether to give it to France's 600,000 Jews instead.

In addition, the Netherlands pointed out in private sessions that only 50 per cent of the gold, stolen by the Germans from its national reserve had been returned since the end of the war. Its delegates said they would decide what to do with their share after listening to papers presented at the conference.

However Lord Janner, chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust and the man who first suggested the conference, said he was surprised that the French did not follow the British and American lead.

The three nations are together the administrators of the gold which was recaptured from the Germans in 1945 and

'No one can return their hope, but we can seek the truth'

For Lord Janner, the conference is the fulfilment of a promise he made himself 50 years ago.

As an 18-year-old British soldier and war crimes investigator, he entered the Belsen concentration camp in Germany on the first anniversary of its liberation. The memory has remained with him.

"Ever since, I've been haunted by the grief of the survivors," he said in his opening remarks yesterday.

"There was no Israel, there was no country that wanted them and there was no hope of justice."

"It was then that I determined that one day, somehow, I would try to do something to bring some sustenance, some hope to the survivors and their families."

Lord Janner, who is now the chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust, was doing his national service with the Royal Artillery when he made contact with Belsen, which was the only camp for displaced Jews in the British zone of Germany.

His first visit to the camp was to a service of remembrance. "I remember every second of that day. I can remember standing by mass graves, with signs saying there were 10,000 bodies, here lie 5,000, and few individual graves," he said.

"Everybody was crying, as they said memorial prayers. I suddenly found myself in the

worst hardship and misery I could conceive."

Afterwards they took him for tea with 50 orphans, all dressed in clothes made from American army blankets.

"I remember one little girl turning her face to the wall and singing a song about crying for her mother. It just tore me apart. Then there was another little girl, who wouldn't talk to anybody," Lord Janner said he was so shocked and moved that for the next two years he gave all his spare time to helping in the camp.

"The whole of this conference is a dream," he said. "It's brilliant. Here are 40 nations who have come together and started to co-operate. This conference is entirely unique. It's a great international recognition of moral debt."

He said it provided new hope for an energetic quest for truth which must lead to more restitution for Holocaust survivors and their families.

"Is it not devastating that 50 years after the end of the war we still do not know the full and real truth about what happened to Nazi gold and especially individual non-monetary gold torn from people, most of whom were murdered?"

"No one can ever return to the victims and their families their wrecked lives, their murdered relatives, their homes and their hope, but we can at least seek to uncover the truth."

— Louise Jury



Lest people forget: A camp survivor at Belsen (left) in 1945 and the young Greville Janner in uniform in the same year

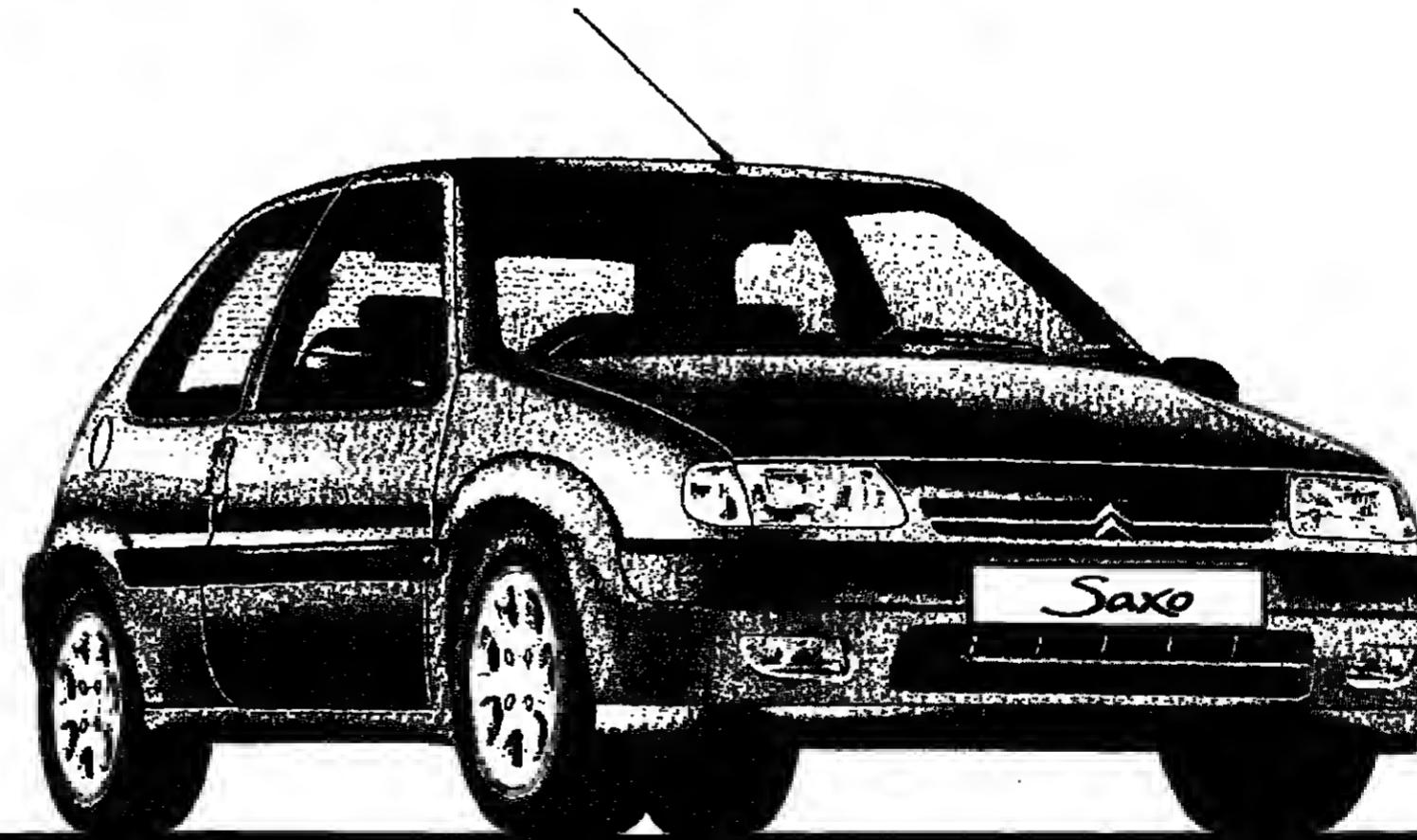


Photographs: Wiener Library/Imperial War Museum

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Farmers raise stakes in battle against cheap meat imports

Farmers in Wales yesterday claimed a further victory in their battle against 'cheap' meat imports when a £500,000 consignment destined for British shops was returned to Ireland. Tony Heath reports on an escalating crisis.

Six lorries laden with Irish meat returned to Rosslare yesterday after police at Fishguard told their drivers they could not guarantee their safe passage out of the West Wales port.

Five hundred farmers had gathered at Crymack, some 30 miles from Fishguard, and police were fearful of a repeat of Sunday night's scenes at Holyhead in which £70,000 worth of beef burgers were dumped in the harbour. The Irish vehicles were corralled when they disembarked from Stena Line's *Connemara Bearic*, and after a meeting with police the drivers decided to re-export.

Keith Turner, assistant chief constable of the Dyfed-Powys force, issued a statement declaring that his officers were not going to take sides and become involved in a political dispute. "Our primary role is to preserve law and order and maintain public safety," he said.

The "victory" at Fishguard has caused anger in the Irish Republic. However, it was enthusiastically hailed yesterday by crowds at Builth Wells where the National Farmers' Union launched a petition addressed to the Agriculture Secretary, Jack Cunningham, and the Welsh Secretary, Ron Davies, urging all possible measures to stabilise the rural economy.

Hugh Richards, NFU vice-president in Wales, said: "The green pound compensation package should be implemented swiftly and we call on the Government to set an example by buying British agricultural products."

To the applause of a large crowd attending the auction of prime Welsh cattle, a coffin draped with the Welsh flag and surmounted by a sirloin of beef was paraded round the show ring. Black-suited and bowler-

hatted pall-bearers later listed their frustrations at falling livestock prices and the perceived lack of government action.

Mick Bates, a cattle and sheep farmer from Llanfair Caereinion in mid-Wales, claimed his income was plunging dangerously low. "We must make the people in power aware of our plight. If it takes demonstrations to do that - so be it."

Keith Morris, who farms at Painscastle, near Hay-on-Wye, said: "Sheep prices are 30 per cent less than a year ago and the money we get for cattle is on the way down."

Terry Court, vice-president of auctioneers Russell, Baldwin and Bright, added: "A year ago a prime beast would fetch £900-£1,000. Today that's down to £600-£650."

Much rests on a meeting in London this afternoon when leaders of the NFU in Wales and the Farmers' Union of Wales are scheduled to meet the Welsh Secretary. The outcome will undoubtedly influence a gathering of farmers planned for tonight at Gaerwen, Anglesey, 20 miles from Holyhead.

Keith Turner, assistant chief constable of the Dyfed-Powys force, issued a statement declaring that his officers were not going to take sides and become involved in a political dispute. "Our primary role is to preserve law and order and maintain public safety," he said.



Guides get the blues as jeans become part of the uniform

Britain's Girl Guides movement is split over a decision to "move with the times" and allow girls to wear jeans, it emerged yesterday.

The Guide Association announced that following popular demand, blue denim would be allowed as part of the uniform from 1 January. Spokeswoman Sue Fortuna said it was an attempt to bring the 710,000 guides up-to-date.

"Jeans are usually a basic item in every young person's wardrobe and we hope the ability to wear these may make Guiding even more accessible to many more girls and young women," she said. "Members will decide whether or not to wear jeans according to their suitability to the activity."

But the idea has not met unanimous approval. One group has voted to ban them from public parades and church outings, and others are set to follow.

Lady Baden-Powell, a former head of the UK movement, said yesterday that jeans "weren't very suitable for church". "I personally think young people like dressing up on occasions," she said. Some parents, group lead-

ers, and even the girls themselves say jeans are not appropriate for their image. Margaret Courtney, leader of the 7th Plumstead Group, south London, said her girls had voted not to wear denim on public parade.

"Some parents have asked why they are doing it and that they look scruffy" she said.

But 12-year-old Kate Hill, a member of the 1st Nunhead Guides, south London, disagreed: "If you wear old jeans with holes in them it might look a bit scruffy, but smart ones will be OK."

"We are already allowed to wear them on day trips or where we might get dirty."

She added: "Guiding is not seen as a fashionable thing to do. If guides are in jeans, more people might join in."

It is the first uniform change since 1990, when designer Jeff Banks introduced the movement to mix-and-match separates.

• Pictured left: Lianne Newport, 14, of the 1st Nunhead Guides in south London, models a 1930s uniform, while Helena Green, 12, shows the latest version.

Photographs: PA
— Jojo Moyes

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Eating out is bad for you

People regularly eating out in restaurants, cafés and canteens are three times more likely to get food poisoning.

Cases of food poisoning increased by 14 per cent in England and Wales up to the start of this month, according to the Public Health Laboratory Service (PHLS) yesterday.

A memorandum submitted to the committee said research in South Wales had shown the higher risks posed to people eating out, prompting Peter Luff, the committee's Tory chairman, to ask whether that meant the rich were at greater risk than the poor.

There was no clear answer to that question, but Professor Tom Humphrey, head of the service's food research laboratory, said: "When you rely on somebody else to cook your food, you live in hope that they do it properly."

In evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture, the service called for a ban on the sale of unpasteurised milk, or

Green Top in England, Wales and Northern Ireland – extending a ban introduced to Scotland in 1983.

The Advisory Committee said in evidence that there was also "growing concern about fruit, vegetables and salad crops which can be contaminated from animal or human source, and from irrigation water".

— Anthony Bevins, Political Editor

Moral angle from maths

Maths and design and technology should be used to teach moral values, according to guidance from government advisers published yesterday.

Outside the classroom, garden plots, circle time and hunger lunches can all help to promote morals. New materials advising schools on how to teach morals through every subject are to be piloted in 50 schools.

"Every subject is value-laden," says the guidance on spiritual, moral, social and cultural development from the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. "In mathematics, for example, truth is important. Scientific developments often give rise to moral dilemmas. History and English help pupils explore issues of motivation and character."

In design and technology, ownership of the artifacts pupils make can increase their respect for property. — Judith Judd

Farce claim in pay row

The Gallic contractors who maintain English Heritage monuments such as Stonehenge and Hadrian's Wall came under fire yesterday for allegedly presiding over a "French farce" in their industrial relations.

The Transport and General Workers' Union said a pay offer by STDA – which is owned by Lyonnaise des Eaux – of 6 per cent over 18 months was not worth the paper it was written on because it included a clause which means that management can change conditions of employment whenever it pleases. "If STDA looks after its ancient monuments as well as it looks after its workers, I don't give Stonehenge to the end of this year," said union official Chris Kaufman.

STDA director Bill Elliott said unions had agreed to recommend the package. "The next thing I hear is that they are holding a press conference in which they attack the deal and the company."

— Barrie Clement, Labour Editor

Railway band back on track

Britain's only railway military band has won its battle to carry on playing at its traditional home. Railtrack said last week that platform refurbishment would mean the 80-year-old Great Western Railway Band would have to leave its home at London's Paddington station.

But last night Railtrack said that a "blast of opposition" had led to a change of heart and that the band could play on at Paddington.

Nut warning

Somerfield supermarket chain issued a health warning yesterday after a teenage girl with a nut allergy reacted to traces of peanut in its own-label Chicken Tikka Kiev. The store is offering a full refund to worried customers. The teenager has made a full recovery.

DAILY POEM

A Birthday

by Christina Rossetti

My heart is like a singing bird
Whose new is in a winter shoot;
My heart is like an apple-tree
Whose boughs are bent with thick-set fruit;
My heart is like a rainbow shell
That puddles in a haleon sea;
My heart is gladder than all these
Because my love is come to me.

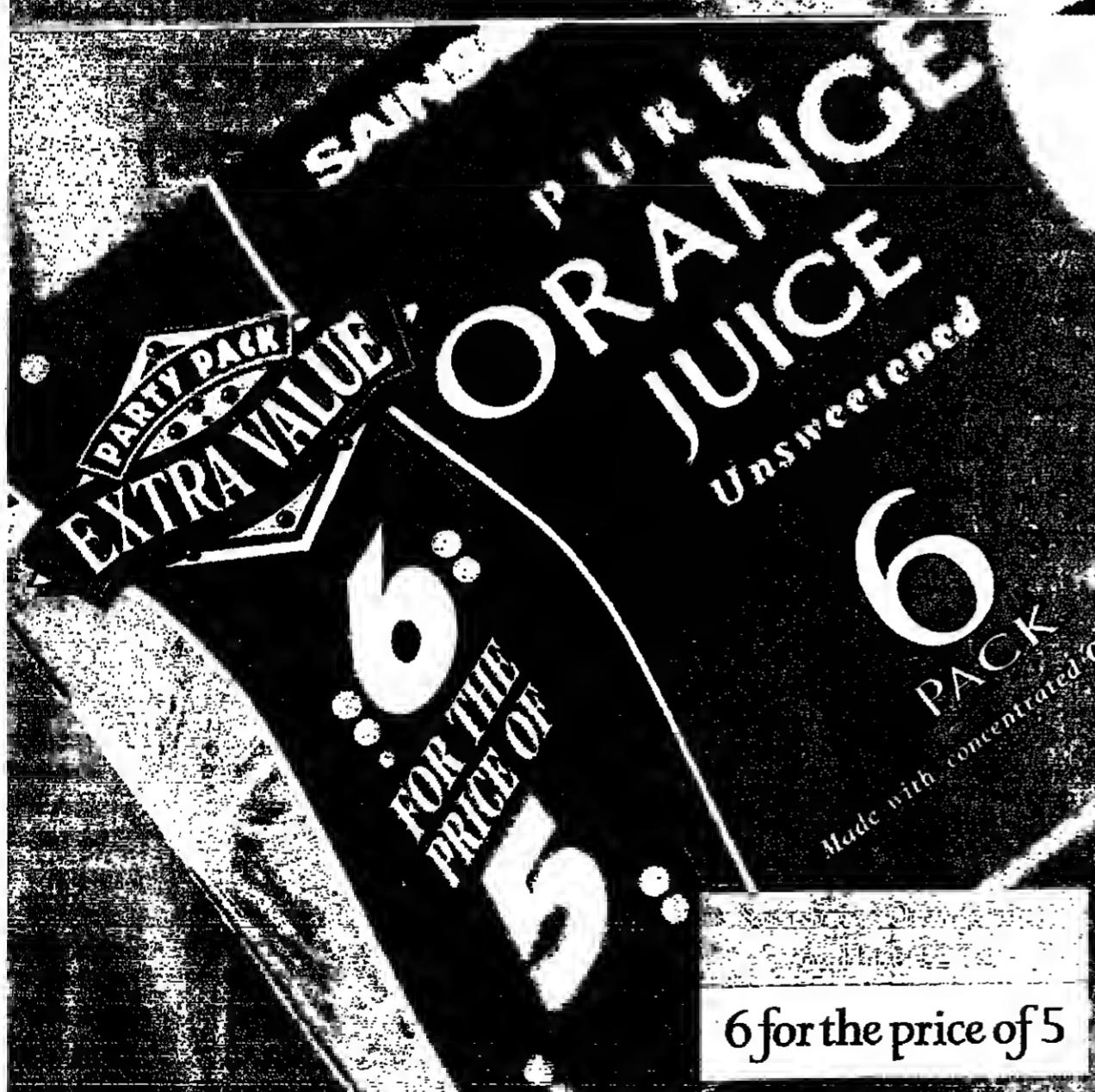
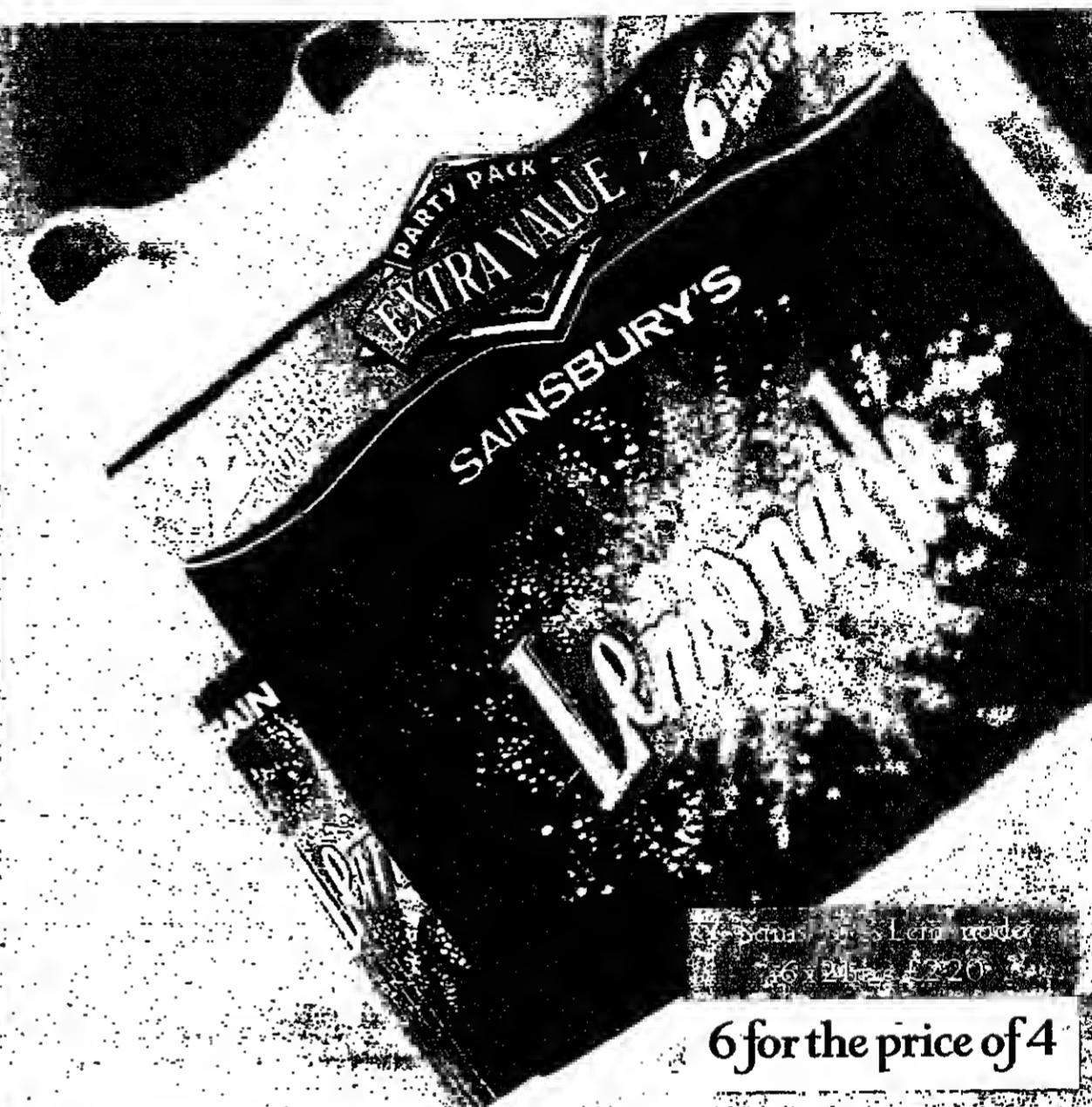
Hang me a dais of silk and down:
Curse it with vair and purple dyes;
Curve it in doves and pomegranates;
And peacock with a hundred eyes;
Work it in gold and silver grapes;
In leaves and silver fleurs-de-lys;
Because the birthday of my life
Is come, my love is come to me.

This week's poems come from the seventh edition of *Poems on the Underground*, edited by Gerard Benson. Judith Charnick and Cicely Herbert (Cassell, £12.99). Emulated around the world since its launch in 1986, *Poems on the Underground* now has counterparts on transport systems in cities from Moscow to Adelaide, as well as on the Internet.

JOHN LEWIS

Great offers at Sainsbury's.

Well, it is Christmas.



Christmas

offer

you

lock that we've got us
nothing more to do than drill
girls, who are available
this December, it has been
decided to go ahead.

Jeff Banks, who designed
uniforms for many girls' and
boys' guides, and now makes
them for the Royal British
Army Cadets, said: "It's
been a long time coming —
it's been a long time for

The Action Committee
for Children said there was
no "genuine" claim about
the velocity of children
but the number of children
died from falls was up by
40% in 1996.

Anthony Soper, from

claim
y row

itors who have made
ments with the Sainsbury's
William Morris
goods produced and
their industrial design
and design awards
offer by Sainsbury's
as well as the
as well as the
cause to the
management and
employment opportunities
colleagues and customers
it looks after its
things, to the
officials. On a Sunday
Bill Elliott said: "We
need the change
that there are
in which the
company.

OEM

SDP hedges bets with twin track policy

Unable to decide whether to turn left or right, Germany's Social Democrats are doing both. Imre Karacs reports from the largest opposition party's conference in Hanover.

The years rolled back as Oskar Lafontaine, the leader of the party which hopes to unseat Chancellor Helmut Kohl, rose to the podium. He spoke about the evils of capitalism, castigated wicked speculators, and condemned the profiteers who put "share-holder value" above the interests of employees.

It was a virtuous performance. An emotional appeal to the Social Democrats' core values, drawing on socialist terminology of yesteryear, was laced with harsh criticism of the Kohl government's economic policies.

On the threshold of election year, that was to be expected, but Mr Lafontaine did not stop there. Taking a tilt against the dark forces of "globalisation", the German leader put himself forward as the champion of a Social Europe.

But whilst he praised his British comrades for signing the EU's Social Chapter, Mr Lafontaine made it clear that he was more in tune with the traditional leanings of French Socialists. The road to salvation –

and power – led via interventionist policies, he indicated.

"Without a co-ordinated economic and financial policy on European scale, it is no longer possible to promote growth and employment," he declared. Europe, he suggested, should become a fortress against the excesses of globalisation: wage-dumping, tax-dumping and social dumping.

Mr Lafontaine also wanted the EU to uphold Germany's high standards on environment, and "harmonise" them throughout the community. On the domestic front, he suggested higher taxes on energy, and more spending on education and job-creation.

The motto of the party's four-day conference is "Innovation and social justice". Mr Lafontaine dwelt at length on the latter, but barely mentioned the former. That task will fall to Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democrats' second chancellor candidate.

Mr Schröder's message, to be delivered tomorrow, will be diametrically opposed to Mr Lafontaine's ideological presentation. Mr Schröder mistrusts "European" solutions, and likes to present himself as Germany's own Tony Blair.

The party will decide between the two next March. Until then, the Social Democrats must soldier on, with their twin track programme and double-headed candidate.



Party pair: Gerhard Schröder hugs Oskar Lafontaine, right, at the Social Democrat conference yesterday. Photograph: Wolfgang Rattay/Reuters

Iraq could target London

The US last night stepped up the war of words against Saddam Hussein, saying that Iraq's secret stocks of chemical and biological weapons, combined with a growing missile capability, made him far more than a mere local threat in the Middle East.

William Cohen, the Defense Secretary, told a meeting of his Nato colleagues in Brussels that President Saddam was working on an enhanced missile with a range of 3,000 miles, bringing targets like London and Paris well within range.

He possessed not the "few drops" of the lethal VX toxin claimed by Baghdad, but almost four tonnes – as well as between

2,000 and 6,000 gallons of anthrax bacteria, which he was well on the way to "weaponizing".

Mr Cohen's presentation, complete with charts and photographs, was designed to steel Nato for a further showdown in a crisis which Washington believes is far from resolved. Unflinching allied support was essential for the UN arms inspectors if they were to do their job properly, US officials said, claiming that one of the 60-odd "presidential palaces" declared off-limits by President Saddam had an area as large as Washington DC.

— Rupert Cornwell

Yeltsin's nuclear arms cut misfires

Keeping up his reputation for the unexpected, Russian President Boris Yeltsin yesterday declared his country would unilaterally slash its number of nuclear warheads by one-third.

Less than an hour after the president's pledge at a news conference on the first day of a three-day visit to Sweden, a spokesman said the cut is not imminent. Yeltsin's advisers often have to retract or modify his statements.

— Stockholm, AP

Explosion kills 61 miners

Battling with freezing temperatures and burdened by out-dated equipment, teams of rescue workers were last night digging through rubble in search of survivors from a massive explosion in a Siberian coal mine which claimed at least 61 lives.

News of the tragedy, which was the worst recent accident in Russia's notoriously unsafe mining industry, dominated the nation's headlines, overshadowing the start of President Boris Yeltsin's three-day trip to Sweden.

The death toll rose steadily yesterday as body after body was brought to the surface following a methane gas explosion during

the overnight shift at a mine in the city of Novokuznetsk, 500 miles north of the border with Mongolia.

The mine was built under Stalin, and was opened just after the Second World War. Mines have long been afoot to reform Russia's costly and out-dated coal mining industry, but progress has been slow. Miners have been forced to continue working with equipment that is both old and unsafe.

Phil Reeves in Moscow

Walesa sets up new party

Lech Walesa, Poland's former president, received approval yesterday for the party which he hopes will draw non-voters to the polls.

Mr Walesa has said the Christian Democracy of Poland party – registered by a Warsaw court – will not compete with Solidarity, the union-led political bloc he also founded.

Mr Walesa endorsed the right-leaning Solidarity Electoral Action ahead of its victory in parliamentary elections in September but said he wanted a new party aimed at attracting the 52 per cent of Poles who did not vote.

Cyprus talks fail

A Brussels envoy failed to persuade the Turkish Cypriots to join their Greek compatriots in negotiating the island's accession to the EU. Speaking after two-day talks with the Greek and Turkish communities on the island, Hans van den Brock, the EU Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, said he would continue his efforts. The remark was seen as an admission of failure. — AP, Nicosia

'Evil' bishop goes

Swiss Catholics breathed a sigh of relief yesterday after the Vatican announced that their most conservative and controversial bishop, Wolfgang Haas, is to be moved to Liechtenstein. His opponents accused him of being authoritarian, even evil or mad.

Tensions between Bishop Haas and other leading Swiss Catholics mounted after his appointment to the see of Chur in 1990. He angered liberals in his flock by opposing moves to allow lay preachers and enhance the role of women in the church.

His supporters in Chur collected up to 10,000 signatures earlier this year backing him. But opponents countered that they could easily collect 100,000 names against him.

Girls' master class

The Vienna Boys' Choir announced on Tuesday that it would admit girls for the first time next year – but only to its elite music school, not to the choir itself. Announcing plans to celebrate the choir's 500th birthday next year, the artistic director Agnes Grossmann said girls would be admitted to the kindergarten next December and to the junior school the following year. — Reuters, Vienna

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11/ENVIRONMENT

Wildlife feels the heat from our climate folly

Wildlife as well as people will be endangered by man-made changes in climate, two leading conservation groups will tell the Kyoto climate treaty meeting today.

Nicholas Schoon, Environment Correspondent, looks at their claim that plants and animals are already giving early warning of a warming world.

Birds, frogs, butterflies and alpine plants are all telling humans about our species' potentially disastrous intervention in the workings of the earth's climate, say the World Wide Fund for Nature and Birdlife International.

They are convinced that in the coming century, the accelerating pace of change will become a real threat to flora and fauna, threatening thousands of species with extinction.

Many animals and plants have been able to cope with large, natural swings in temperature and rainfall in the past; they shifted their distribution. This time it will be far more difficult because vast areas of potential habitat have been taken over by man for cities and intensively exploited farmland.

Migrating water birds may find the mudflats and salt marshes they rely on as feeding grounds disappearing beneath small rises in sea level.

Researchers have found that of 65 British bird species, most are nesting earlier than they were a quarter century ago – nine days earlier, on average. Also in the UK, frogs, toads and newts seem to be arriving at ponds to spawn a few days earlier than they did 17 years ago.

In the United States, a study of a butterfly species called

Edith's checkerspot indicates that the southern edge of its range has been shifted 60 miles north as a result of an average 0.7°C warming.

Any further south and conditions are too hot for the butterfly to maintain a population, but it has an alternative – moving upwards. If it lives on cooler high ground, such as mountainsides, it can tolerate living in lower latitudes. The scientists found these upland butterflies had, on average, shifted nearly 400ft higher.

Another study of 14 European butterfly species found nine had moved their range northwards by an average of 125 miles this century, three had stayed roughly put, one was expanding in all directions and only one appeared to be moving southwards. Research on alpine plants has shown that they are moving up mountains as higher temperatures climb up from below.

These are a few of the examples discussed at a scientific conference on wildlife and climate change in Colorado earlier this year. Biologists believe some flora and fauna can act as highly sensitive indicators of climate change, responding to small but sustained alterations in temperature.

The findings from the conference are being released in Kyoto today by the international conservation groups World Wide Fund for Nature and Birdlife International, whose UK member is the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The UN climate treaty negotiations in Kyoto are centred around what cuts developed countries should make in their emissions of climate changing greenhouse gases, principally carbon dioxide which comes from burning coal, oil and gas.

They end in the middle of next week, and have made little progress so far. The really serious talking starts at the weekend, when ministers arrive.

Campaigners' victory will not protect peat

Controversial plans to remove the special wildlife designation from parts of two big English bogs were abandoned yesterday. But, says Nicholas Schoon, that will not save them from peat extraction.

Environmental groups celebrated, but the conservation saga of Thorne and Hatfield Moors on Humberside appears no nearer a happy ending after English Nature's decision yesterday. The ruling council of the Government's wildlife watchdog decided to drop plans to remove Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status from nearly a fifth of their combined area.

These moors on Humberside are fine specimens of raised, lowland peat bogs – a rare habitat in Europe. It consists of a huge, low mound of peat which has accumulated over thousands of years, with its own collection of plant and animal species living on top.

Despite their SSSI designation, for many years they have been damaged by peat extraction – which lowers the water table and dries them out, killing the special bog vegetation. In the past few decades this has escalated, through massive, mechanised extraction, to

provide peat for horticulture. Five years ago English Nature did a deal with Levington, the company which has long-established planning permissions to extract the peat. The relatively undamaged majority of the moors, covered in vegetation, were given over to the conservation arm in order to protect them as nature reserves.

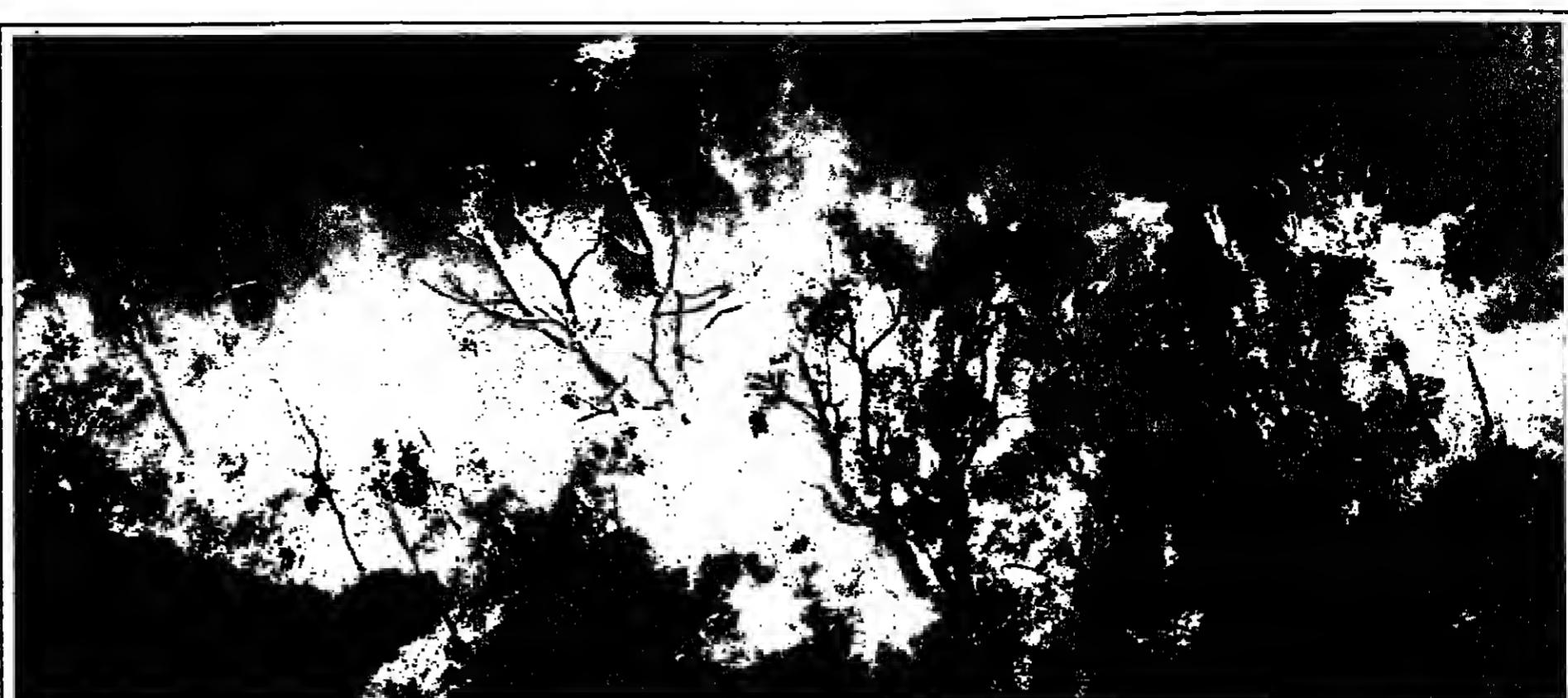
Levington was given *carte blanche* to keep mining peat from the remainder until it got within half a metre of the underlying rock. Then it would have to stop, so the thin layer of remaining peat could hopefully be restored as bog.

In effect, the deal gave the company about 30 years more exploitation of the moors. It was decided by environmentalists who said it was wrong in principle and that further extraction would keep on lowering the water table – threatening the rest of the moors.

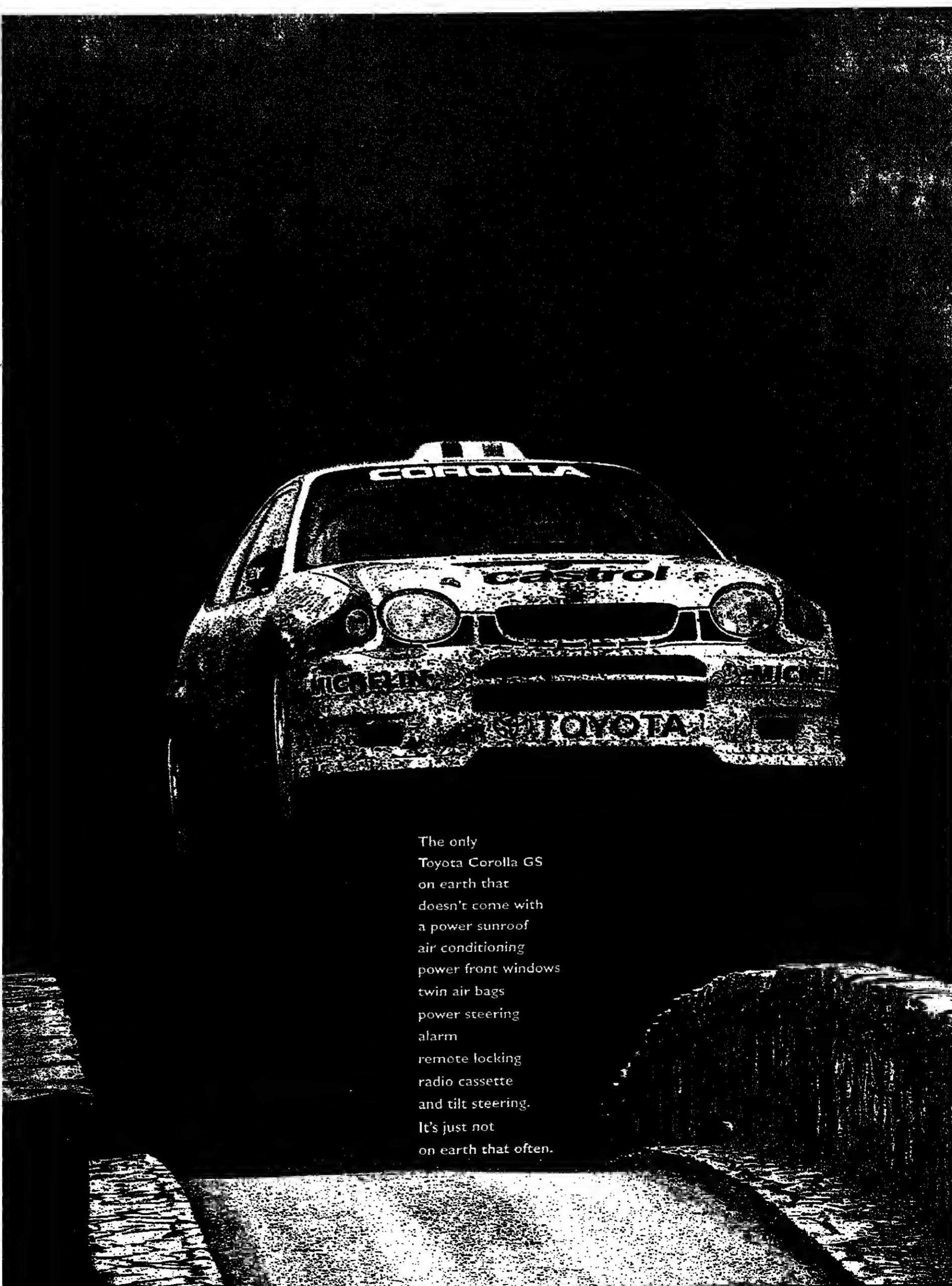
This year, English Nature's top officers had proposed removing the SSSI status from those parts of the moors being worked by Levington. But yesterday, English Nature's council rejected the proposal, because it could not be certain that continuing extraction would not damage the rest of the moors.

Conservation groups were delighted but, as English Nature pointed out, the decision does nothing to get Levington off the moor.

To do that, the local council would have to revoke the company's planning permission for peat extraction – in return for which it would have to pay large sums in compensation. Alternatively, the Government would have to change the law concerning planning and wildlife sites. Both environmentalists and English Nature can agree that is necessary.



Photograph: Stephen Cooper/Reuters



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Clinton fights to keep race relations drive on track

Bill Clinton travels to Ohio today to preside at a discussion of race relations that will be televised across America. Mary Dejevsy says the first big follow-up to his national dialogue on race may not be enough to save an initiative that is already floundering.

The town of Akron, barely 30 miles from the industrial city of Cleveland, was chosen by the White House for its model policies on race. They include the "Coming Together Fellowship", which pairs black and

white individuals who are members of existing clubs and groups and sets them the challenge of getting to know each other one on one – the principle being that race relations will improve only when contacts are people to people, not "race to race".

The programme was started four years ago after the local newspaper ran a series of articles on the widening gap between the city's blacks and whites. For the purposes of today's conference, the city has the added advantage that it is 75 per cent white, increasing the likelihood that a respectable number of white people will attend a forum on what is seen as a largely black issue.

Whatever the credentials of Akron, to-

day's conference, denoted a town-hall style meeting in the manner of the largely unscripted gatherings at which Mr Clinton excelled during his presidential campaigns, has had almost as chequered a history as the President's race relations initiative as a whole.

Its agenda was adapted, if not thoroughly rewritten, after the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, objected that proceedings would merely defend the President's known enthusiasm for "affirmative action" – positive discrimination on ethnic grounds.

Mr Gingrich complained that it would give no platform to the increasingly vocal section of opinion in the United States that

rejects "reverse" discrimination as contrary to the principle of equal opportunities. Now a number of opponents of affirmative action are expected to attend and address the meeting; the importance of affirmative action has also been scaled down.

A White House aide appeared to make a virtue out of necessity, saying: "Real life discussions about race are often contentious and emotional. There's no reason why this shouldn't be, too." But to many, including, it is said, Mr Clinton, the greater risk is that the conference gets bogged down in the same bland clichés and do-goodery that have characterised the initiative so far.

In fact, Mr Clinton might well wonder whether his "national dialogue" on race

really needed the President's imprimatur. Outside the hothouse of Washington politics, a feverish dialogue on race is already in progress, the like of which may not have been seen in the US since the civil rights movement of the Sixties.

The debate has been joined in courts, on radio talk shows, in the columns of newspapers and journals, and in a crop of new books. Several are scholarly rebuttals four years on, of *The Bell-Curve*, the book that argued a correlation between race and intelligence. Others analyse current racial divisions in the US and forecast, more optimistically than not, their eventual resolution in a demographic melting-pot.

Recent polls have suggested that racial

hatred and suspicion in America are at least disapproved of, if not in decline. Another survey suggested teenagers were increasingly "colour blind".

On the ground, the evidence is conflicting. Housing and schooling is *de facto* segregated in much of the US. While the hometown of the Ku Klux Klan founder recently elected its first black mayor, an outbreak of racial attacks by skinheads in the mid-Western city of Denver has highlighted new friction. And in Texas, the growing Hispanic minority is challenging black control of councils and school boards, suggesting further conflict when whites cease to be an overall majority in a multi-coloured, if still not integrated, US.

Equality policy lives on

A recent out-of-court settlement in a landmark race relations case showed how far public and legal opinion has now swung against 30 years of affirmative action.

This policy, which encouraged positive discrimination for jobs and university places in favour of ethnic minorities and women, has been in retreat for more than a year.

The celebrated case of a white teacher, Sharon Taxman, who sued for wrongful dismissal after her school chose to keep a black teacher on the staff, had been expected to decide the legality of "affirmative action" once and for all.

But last month Ms Taxman agreed to settle for more than \$400,000 rather than go to the Supreme Court. The money was paid not by the school authorities (the defendants), but by the Black Leadership Forum, a group of civil rights organisations. Their only possible motive was to fend off a judgment that they anticipated would go against affirmative action. The settlement means that there will be no Supreme Court ruling, therefore no end to affirmative action. — Mary Dejevsy



Fighting back: Some observers hope that *Amistad*, Steven Spielberg's new film about a slave-ship mutiny, may become a *Schindler's List* for America's African diaspora

Spielberg film of slave revolt hits home

The Clintons, along with members of the White House staff, were expected to get themselves into the mood for today's conference by attending a showing of Steven Spielberg's new film, *Amistad*, due to be released next week.

Amistad tells the true story of a mutiny on board the slave ship *Amistad* in 1839, the ship's subsequent capture off Long Island, and the eventual United States' legal ruling that vindicates the slaves and sets them free.

Like so many of Spielberg's films, *Amistad* is guaranteed to strike a chord with the American public. It is already predicted that it could be a *Schindler's List* for the African diaspora. The curiosity about slavery has grown recently with suggestions that President Bill Clinton might issue a formal apology for the treatment of slaves.

Amistad, which is reported to be unstinting in its depiction of the suffering endured by slaves, offers a solution of a kind. By depicting the early US as a state of law, in which principled individuals – in this case, John Quincy Adams – were prepared to stand up for the right to freedom, even of those sold into slavery, Spielberg keeps the constitutional ideal of the US intact.

That it took the best part of 30 years, and a civil war, before the ideal and reality were brought into accord is what is seen as evil, not the essence of the US.

— Mary Dejevsy, Washington

Winnie's daughter accused of torture

Members of Winnie Mandela's notorious football club yesterday claimed her daughter had taken a leading part in torturing those on her mother's hit list.

Mary Braid, in Johannesburg, says the testimony reinforces Mrs Mandela's image as a violent mafia leader.

Gift Ntombeni, a former member of the Mandela United Football Club, claimed Winnie Madikizela-Mandela's younger daughter, Zinzi, carved the initials ANC onto the back and chest of a man accused of being a police spy.

Mr Ntombeni, 25, said he saw Zinzi gouging out the letters with plastic utensils in the yard of Mrs Mandela's Soweto home in the late 1980s.

As Mr Ntombeni told his story, the permanent smile that has played on the lips of Zinzi, 37, throughout seven harrowing days of testimony during which her mother has been implicated in at least six murders and many assaults, disappeared. It was replaced by a broad grin, and an exaggerated roll of the eyes heavenward.

Mr Ntombeni told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings into the activities of the football club that Zinzi and her mother initiated and even took part in assaults. "I know this woman [Zinzi]," he said. "And I know what she is capable of... Zinzi

definitely takes after her mother. Both of them are capable of any deed whatsoever."

Mr Ntombeni's testimony reinforced a portrait of Mrs Mandela as a violent mafia leader rather than the Mother of the Nation. The portrait embarrasses her political allies. Yesterday it was reported that the ANC's Women League was rethinking its nomination of Mrs Mandela for deputy leader of the party, against the leadership's wishes, later this month.

Mr Ntombeni, like other witness portrayed the football club as gangsters. They would, he said, hunt down "informers" and bring them back to a shack nicknamed Lusaka – the headquarters of the ANC in exile – at the back of Mrs Mandela's home. "Then we would start assaulting them and disappearing them," he said. Torture methods included burning.

No sane person defied Winnie's daughter, he said. Anyone who did was labelled a police spy. Mr Ntombeni said he left the club in 1988, when he was 16, after a year's stay at Mrs Mandela's house. He claimed she instigated and participated in the torture of youths accused of raping a schoolgirl.

According to Mr Ntombeni, ANC officials helped him leave the country for Uganda in 1992 after he went to the party's Johannesburg headquarters and complained that Mrs Mandela had ordered his assassination. He returned home two years later.

On Monday, the TRC issued a strong warning to Mrs Mandela after witnesses accused her of intimidation. Mr Ntombeni said Mrs Mandela summoned him to her home just a week ago to speak about his testimony. Ishmail Semenya, Mrs Mandela's lawyer, who sought to prevent Mr Ntombeni giving evidence, did not contest his claim.

Allegations against Zinzi Mandela-Hlongwane were also made yesterday by another former club member, Lerato Ikaneng. He claimed she instigated and participated in the torture of youths accused of raping a schoolgirl.

Mr Ikaneng revealed a large scar across his neck. He said he had been left for dead in a field in 1989 after Mrs Mandela found out he had given the police a statement about a murder committed by Siswe Sithole, the father of one of Zinzi's four children.

Mr Ikaneng said Gerry Richardson, the former "coach" of the football club, had cut his throat with garden shears. Mr Richardson is serving life for the murder of Stompe Seipei Moketsi, 14, in 1989. Mrs Mandela was convicted of kidnapping the boy. Richardson is expected to testify today that Mrs Mandela ordered him to kill Stompe.

Mrs Mandela is expected to testify tomorrow. A taste of what might be in store was offered yesterday after ANC activist Evdoin Nkandimeng, 33, claimed that Mrs Mandela had an affair with a police spy. With no hard evidence to offer, Mr Semenya accused Ms Nkandimeng of being a police spy. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, TRC chairman, admonished the lawyer.

Yesterday, Alex Boraine, TRC deputy chairman, expressed the Commission's general dissatisfaction with the level of honesty among witnesses that have so far appeared – whether ANC big wigs or prisoners serving life.



Family affair: Winnie Mandela, left, with daughter Zinzi at the TRC hearing yesterday

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14/ THE SPENCERS

Why patenting this face could help boost celebrity fortunes

An attempt to patent the face of Diana, Princess of Wales is likely to prevent her image being used in cheap merchandising. It is also, as Jojo Moyes discovers, indicative of celebrities' attempts to take even greater control over their publicity.

The last attempt to "patent" a face was when the pop star Adam Ant tried to prevent the publication of cheap posters bearing his "New Romantic" look. The judge in that case ruled that there was no copyright on someone's appearance.

But now, due to the enlargement of the 1994 Trademark Act, it is possible to register much more. Because of this, lawyers acting for the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund have sent 26 photographs of her to be registered with the Patent Office, in a move which could generate millions of pounds - and have huge implications for living celebrities.

The photographs cover the Princess from almost all angles, and with different hairstyles. This means that anyone wishing to use on merchandise a photograph which was "substantially similar" to any of those 26 images would have to apply to the Memorial Fund for permission, and would be liable to pay a fee.

In a concurrent move, the office is also applying to register the name Diana, Princess of Wales, as a trademark. The two moves would effectively give control of the Princess's image to the fund office, and transfer the Princess's status into that of a trading emblem.

John Major, the former prime minister, who is acting as financial guardian to Princes William and Harry, is expected to go to the High Court before Christmas to pass the trademark rights from the Princess to the Memorial Fund.

Mr Major is said to want to establish that the young princes ultimately own the image and name of their mother. The decision on the trademark application is likely to take six months.

Kate Knightley Day, of the Memorial Fund office, said yesterday: "Such an application is highly unusual. It has been prompted by the extensive



misuse of likeness, which extends beyond mere photographic images."

According to Robin Fry, media lawyer at Stephens Innocent, this is an ambitious interpretation of the law, and one which may well be challenged.

"It's a frightening. If people see that all things bearing this image bear trademark, and it's backed up by threats from lawyers a lot of people will capitulate. It's cheaper to buy a license and pay the 5 per cent to the fund."

Where does that leave photographers who might have compiled hundreds of their own images of the Princess? "They'd be able to use their own photographs for newspaper coverage, but it's possible that they would be blocked

Face and fortune: Lawyers acting for the Princess of Wales Memorial Fund have sent 26 photographs of her from almost all angles and with different hairstyles to be registered with the Patent Office. Merchants would have to seek permission to use photographs "substantially similar" to those images

Photograph: Tim Graham

from using them for merchandising."

According to Mr Fry, images could still be used as long as they were illustrative - but not as a basis for making money. He referred to a recent case in Scotland, where the pop group Wet Wet Wet had registered their name as a trademark and subsequently attempted to block an unauthorised biography in the same name.

"The book was initially blocked, but it went to appeal and the judge said that was wrong, as the phrase Wet Wet Wet was being used to say what the book was about," Mr Fry said. "On that basis, you would still be able to bring out a book called *Diana, Princess of Wales*, with photographs, but not a photograph album.

"The most relevant thing is they're firing a warning shot across people's bows. Even if manufacturers' lawyers labour late into the night, it's not always going to be worth it."

The Diana memorabilia industry is estimated to be worth around £100m worldwide. The Princess's solicitors have written more than 700 letters to companies to attempt to ensure that the memorial fund receives a share of the sale of Diana-related goods.

Recognising the lucrative possibilities of fame, celebrities are increasingly keen to take control of their image. Eric Cantona, for example, attempted to register shirts marked "Cantona 7" and the catchphrase "Ooh Aah Cantona", and Damon Hill tried to register the "image of himself wearing his helmet".

"What is worrying is that instead of being used for legitimate commercial purposes, this will be used as a means of censorship. For example, in the Wet Wet Wet case they didn't like what was inside the book," said Mr Fry. "What is interesting in Diana's case is that it has come now rather than during her life."

Earl pays price to keep infidelities under wraps

Earl Spencer's eight-year marriage will end today with a quickie divorce. According to Ian Burrell, the £2m settlement was the price the Earl was prepared to pay for his wife's silence on "marital confidences".

"It won't last," clucked some observers at St Mary's Church, near Althorp, when Charles Edward Maurice, the ninth Earl Spencer, pledged himself to a beautiful model. The couple had met only a few weeks earlier and Darius Guppy, who was later to be jailed for a bogus jewel robbery insurance scam, was the best man.

Sure enough, in a rubber-stamping ceremony today at court room number 17 at the Supreme Court in Cape Town, the Earl's marriage to Victoria Lockwood will be annulled.

It was September 1989 when Victoria Lockwood trailed limply beside Charles Althorp at their wedding. She looked utterly miserable and far from looking happy he looked sombre, as though he was carrying out another ancestral duty.

When, in an announcement from his bathtub, Lord Spencer first told his wife that he believed their relationship was scuppered, he can have had little idea that intimate details of the couple's problems would be relayed to the world's media.

That, to a degree, is what has happened during what was supposed to have been a hearing which would simply decide whether the couple's divorce should be heard in England or South Africa.

Instead, lawyers for Lady Spencer alleged that her husband had between 10 and 12 affairs while she was fighting to overcome drink and drug dependencies.

It could have been worse. The full story of Lord Spencer's alleged adultery would have emerged had the Countess been allowed to take the witness stand.

Yet after hours of discussions, the prospect of that scenario was dispelled by a settlement announced in the early hours of yesterday morning and believed to include a £2m clean break payout.

Significantly, a pre-prepared statement said: "A fundamental term of the agreement is that we undertake to the courts of South Africa and England not to breach our marital confidences or to give further details of this settlement."

Yesterday the two legal teams met in chambers to sort out the final details.

Difficulties in drawing up the papers and sorting out bank details were understood to be behind the delay, which meant the divorce could not go through yesterday.

Lord Spencer, 33, wanted the divorce to be heard in South Africa but his wife wanted it in England where any settlement was likely to be higher.

She sought a £3.75m clean break settlement but her husband offered only a lump sum of £300,000 and other perks including a house in a smart suburb of Cape Town.

The family fortune is estimated at £100m but the Earl said most of his assets



Triangle: Countess Spencer, the Earl, and his mistress Chantal Colopy, who was ready to tell all

were tied up with the Althorp family home in Northamptonshire.

Yesterday at Althorp, security was stepped up amid fears that intruders were trying to reach the grave of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The Earl's spokeswoman, Shelley-Anne Claircourt, said that a sophisticated security system was put in after two people tried to climb perimeter walls.

She said the incident occurred two months ago, more than a mile from the grave site, and the police were not involved.

Ms Claircourt added that the plans for a fence around Diana's island resting place were not introduced as a security measure. "They are decorative iron gates being put up in the vicinity of the island," she said.

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26
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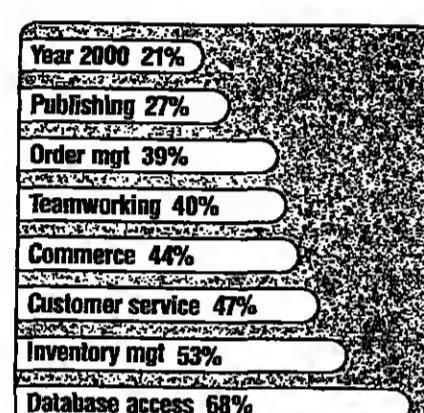
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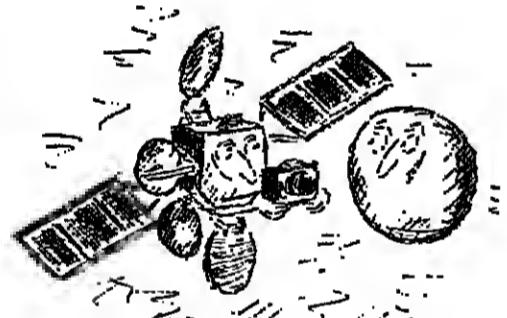


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An intranet makes good business sense. Here's what companies got back on their investment over the first year. (Source: Meta Group)



FACT

The same IBM RS/6000 server technology that gets people working together now gets planets working together. NASA put RS/6000 technology on board the Pathfinder mission to Mars. Having travelled 310 million miles at up to 75,000 mph and withstanding temperatures between zero and minus 55°C, it sent back images of the red planet that astonished our blue one.

e-business MADE THIS AD

Lotus Notes was used between New York and Paris to view initial layouts and photo selections. Copy was sent by e-mail to Stockholm and Copenhagen for translation into local country versions. Meanwhile copy was crafted into shape by the typographer in London, with versions zapping to and from Paris via ISDN until final approval. (This was not a stunt to prove a point, but everyday practice.)



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A recent study by the Meta Group determined that corporate intranets had an average return-on-investment of 38%. Pretty good.

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Therefore, the more interactive your Web site - the more "collaboration rich" - the better the payoff for your business.

(Little wonder then, that Business Week summed up

dealers, the cost of setting up a purchase order went from £35 to 10 pence. Here are three more examples.

Case Study 1: Gabetti, Italy's foremost property broker, uses an IBM intranet/Internet solution to forge a competitive edge. Property details are up-dated centrally and shared across a nationwide network. Customers have Web access to a 24 hour property catalogue.

Case Study 2: Coloplast, a leading Danish health care product manufacturer, is planning a secure zone for its Web site as a global forum for new product development. IBM based the site on Lotus Notes.

Case Study 3: Castrol International, as a sponsor of formula one racing, distributes high quality action photos to the world's press direct from trackside - via the Web. The solution, built by Agora, an IBM partner, uses Lotus Notes.

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18/THEATRE

Pan, who and what art thou?



Off to 'never say never' Never Land: Pan takes flight in Disney's *Films* cartoon; time runs out for Captain Hook in the jaws of the clockwork crocodile (far left); and Robin Williams finds the inner child within his corporate-suited self in Steven Spielberg's 1991 wish-fulfilment fantasy, *Hook* (below).

Photographs: © Disney, Mary Evans
Picture Library Foto Blitz

As JM Barrie's evergreen classic returns to the London stage, Paul Taylor wonders: is Peter Pan just a boy who wouldn't grow up or a perennial symbol of reproach to all parents for never being there when they're wanted?

The exact state of diplomatic relations between Never Land and the United Kingdom has always been unclear; but let us suppose, for the sake of argument, that Peter Pan, in his annual flight between the two, has now been ordered to carry identification papers. "Pan, who and what art thou?" puzzles Captain Hook just before the climactic skirmish in JM Barrie's classic play. "I'm youth, I'm joy. I'm a little bird that has broken out of the egg," crows the hero – an answer unlikely, you'd have thought, to cut much ice with the immigration authorities.

To the tidy, form-filling, bureaucratic mind, the alternative

descriptions would be equally unappealing. "The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up" is how the sub-title characterises Peter, ear-marking him as the pioneering patron saint of all those who make a career out of permanently arrested development. Wouldn't want many more of them in the country, now, would we?

And what kind of wet, dangerous talk is this, from a revealing programme note Barrie penned for the Paris premiere in 1908? "Perhaps he [Peter] was a little boy who died young, and this is how the author conceived his subsequent adventures. Perhaps he was a boy who was never born at all – a boy whom some people longed for, but who never came. It may be that those people hear him at the window more clearly than the grown-ups. For if Never Land – with its pirates, mermaids, and redskins, its simultaneous seasons, and its whole air of being a parodic pastiche of previous children's adventure literature – is (in Barrie's words) 'a map of a child's mind', the play itself constitutes

a kind of map against which each generation can measure its subsequent shifts in adult-child relations and in concepts of innocence. As with any great classic, the meaning of *Peter Pan* alters over time.

Opening at the National Theatre on 16 December is a revival of the John Caird/Trevor Nunn version that was such a huge and deserved hit for the RSC in its Nunn-run days back in the early 1980s. This is the adaptation of the play that, as one critic put it, "elevated [Peter Pan] from the ghetto of children's theatre into a national masterpiece". It reclaimed, so to speak, the Tights of Man, by breaking the pantomimic "Princely Boy" tradition and assigning the eponymous role to a male actor (first Miles Anderson and then the brilliant Mark Rylance). It reflected Barrie's endless tinkering with his myth by interleaving the published play text of 1928 with bits from his other versions, including the 1911 novelisation and the (unfilmed) Paramount screen scenario he wrote for Charlie Chaplin.

And it brought Barrie out to the stage as a character, the mediator of his own creation. These changes converged and crystallised in a piercing sense of tragedy. In a pattern typical of Barrie's plays (eg *The Admirable Crichton* or *Mary Rose*) and of their great Shakespearean ancestor, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the mortals are, in the end, transported back from the magical to the real world, where sad but necessary adjustments to mundane conformity have to be made.

As the Darling children are joyously reunited with their parents, the Barrie character in the Nunn/Caird version makes sure we notice the unremarked spectre at this emotional feast, using words interpolated from the 1911 novelisation: "but there was no one to see them except a strange boy who was staring at the window. He had ecstasies innumerable that other children can never know; but he was looking through the window at the one joy from which he must be forever barred". The "Boy Who Would Not Grow Up" is revealed as the boy who now could not grow up, even if he half-wished to and his behaviour and cyclical amnesia

method" of employing a Newfoundland dog. The most startling of these runs:

"The absent mother has another secret, too – an awkward, half-realised one. For a few minutes every day, our value scars, precisely because, like the Darling children, we have selfishly skipped off, 'like the most heartless things in the world'."

We are not waiting at home for those unfeeling children to return from their exploits, as is the limp, much-maligned Mrs Darling, a woman who, JM Barrie tells us, "had no proper spirit".

So there we have it: the modern parent-child relation – a precise role-reversal of *Peter Pan's* ending, where now it's the kids who hang round, awaiting their mother's arrival back from the truanting Never Land of work. Ms Schiff's entire argument is falsely based: it cites as proof of its insights what happens in classic children's literature, where the adventures therein are more often useful in showing how grown-ups have pictured children imaginatively compensating for parental neglect.

A raucously revisionist les-

ting who was the villainous phic ménage with Mummy Darling II. They were the oppressed majority here, for everyone was gay apart from the shilly prejudiced Darling children and I, for one, will never forget the female audience's shouts of "Give her one!" when the actress playing Peter bent solicitously over the ailing Tinkerbell.

What Schiff's article recalls most strongly, though, is *Hook*, Steven Spielberg's unholy wonderful mess of a movie which is the example par excellence of using *Peter Pan* as the springboard for a middle-class guillotine. Instead of Lost Boys, it's lost fatherhood that is Spielberg's focus as he presents us with Robin Williams's repressed, workaholic parent who takes his job everywhere and is almost frightened of giving his kids quality time. Why? Because he's out of touch with the child inside in the most colorfully mythic way imaginable.

This suit of a guy is "in denial" that he is Peter Pan and once lived in Never Land. His children are kidnapped and carried off there by Dustin Hoffman's excellent Captain Hook (a guffawing cross between Terry Thomas and Basil Brush) who

poses as the all-attentive father

the little son never had, kitteh the latter out as an identical Charles II miniature of himself.

The movie is a fascinating, hopelessly flawed, but funny and moving attempt to reconcile the irreconcilable. Peter Pan as an American adult who finds it hard to bond with the inner scamp or to turn off his mobile phone? Peter Pan as Corporate Man, who only rediscovered how

Spark's novel, *The Hothouse by the East River* have a constant capacity to catch us off guard, which is why, like its weird, admirable, deeply unfortunate hero, the original play will remain for ever young.

The Nunn/Caird *Peter Pan* begins previewing on Monday, opens Tue 16 Dec, Royal National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 2252)

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bian adaptation of *Peter Pan* at the Drill Hall in 1992 seized on the fact that, while the children's father, Mr Darling, is present in Never Land in the dream-like proxy form of Captain Hook, the two characters are almost invariably played by the same actor. Mrs Darling is more or less completely marginalised. So this version shifted the bias in the opposite direction, with a Mummy Dar-

king Faces,
Meryl Streep

19/FASHION

Movers and shakers in the Bond market

Never Land: Pan Piffles cartoon; time book in the jaws of the left; and Robin child within his Steven Spielberg's *Hock* (see page 12). Mr Ean Connery's *Diamonds are Forever* (see page 13) and *Thunderball* (see page 14).

When 'Tomorrow Never Dies' opens next week 007 won't be the only one in for the kill.
Designing clothes for the world's most stylish secret agent – and his enemies – can be a licence to sell, says Francesco Fearn.

You think you're watching action heroes, but you're really window shopping.

That's the conclusion that the likes of Armani and Cerruti and Hugo Boss have reached, and you know they can't be wrong. Armani has worked on more than 90 films, including *Batman* and *The Bodyguard*; Cerruti has notched up a similar number. Italian label Ermenegildo Zegna's latest credits are *The Devil's Advocate*, and Kenneth Branagh in *The Gingerbread Man*.

Ever since the first moving pictures were shown, films have proved to be the perfect forum for showing off fashion. With audiences held captive for two hours while the camera mag-

nifies every designer detail on to a huge screen, it is surely the most profitable form of free advertising there is. The designers provide the clothes free, of course – and, of course, it's dead important that the folk see the label.

It was no accident that Armani launched his menswear collection in the US on the back of the success of *American Gigolo*. The timing was certainly right.

"In the Eighties men started to focus more on fitness and the right dose of vanity," says Giorgio Armani. "They tended to be more flexible in the way of clothing and became less conservative and traditionalist."

Rocky IV propelled Hugo Boss into the US market. But now it's that James Bond moment again: *Tomorrow Never Dies* premieres next week. Enter the Italian bespoke tailor Brioni, with a licence to dress.

Brioni has had a tricky sartorial history, and that's down to the different actors who have played the role over the years. The truth about Bond and clothes is the same as the truth about Bond himself. Sean Conn-

ney was the only one who was really the business. Roger Moore is remembered for his Seventies slacks, and Timothy Dalton for his complete lack of dress sense; Sean Connery's timeless Sixties tailoring is the

look best liked on Bond. "It was simple, classic and partly perfid," explains the costume designer, Lindy Hemming.

That is just the image she was seeking for Pierce Brosnan,

the first Bond since Connery to look and feel right: the first one really worth dressing (or undressing). "I wanted a look that Bond would have chosen for himself – slightly Savile Row – but would not make him

stand out in a crowd," she says. So Hemming chose Brioni to kit out Bond, because the tailors of Savile Row did not have the capacity to produce within two weeks the 17 suits required, complete with special inside

pockets in which 007 could stash his Walther PPK.

Rather than impose a current season's look on her characters, which she believes would have dated the film, Hemming has used clothes to define each personality. In *Tomorrow Never Dies*, Bond is classical; Jonathan Pryce as the villain, Carver, is modern and minimalist, wearing clothes adapted from Kenzo; and the henchman, Stampfer, played by Gotz Otto, wears Ozwald Boateng, which, says Hemming, is "the reflection of a young, modern hard man."

At Christie's, South Kensington, you can buy suits straight off the screen if you've a few tens of thousands to spare. The navy suit Harrison Ford wears in *Airforce One* is one he bought off the rail from Cerruti and thought would fit the part. Cerruti then ran up 36 copies, to be worn by Ford and his stunt doubles in the film. Very few of them survived the rigours of filming, but one that did is being sold for between £1,800 and £2,200, complete with two bullet holes and imitation blood.

Alongside the Cerruti at Christie's will be a dress suit, a navy three-piece and a cream linen suit designed specially for Sean Connery in *Diamonds are Forever*, both estimated to sell for between £4,500 and £6,500, and a brown wool suit from *Thunderball*. The most sought-after item however, will be the black wool dinner suit with claret tapes and matching trousers, that was made for Sean Connery, again for 1971's *Diamonds are Forever*. The lowest bid expected for that is £6,000.

So if you hanker after a suit once worn by your hero, then, at last, if you have the spare cash, this is your opportunity to realise a Hollywood dream, bullet holes and all.

Tomorrow Never Dies premieres in London on 9 December, and goes on general release on 12 December.

Christie's Film and Entertainment Memorabilia sale will be held on 11 December at 85 Old Brompton Road, South Kensington, London SW7, from 2pm. Call 0171-581 7611 for further details, or 0171-321 3152 for a catalogue.

Above, from left: Pierce Brosnan as Bond in 'Tomorrow Never Dies' wears made-to-measure Brioni suit with side vents, £2,000, from Beale & Inman, 131-133 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-629-4723); co-star Jonathan Pryce wears black shirt and black stretch wool suit, all by Kenzo, about £430, from Selfridges and branches of Woodhouse (enquiries 0171-235-4021); Gotz Otto wears made-to-measure suit in a wool/mohair mix, by Ozwald Boateng. Ready-to-wear prices start at £895. 9, Vigo Street, London W1 (0171-734-6868)

Above: Harrison Ford in 'Airforce One' wore Cerruti suit, £700 off the peg, to be sold at Christie's for an estimated £1,800 to £2,200; Richard Gere wore Armani for 'American Gigolo'

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By Kevyn Aucoin

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Thank goodness for Kevyn Aucoin. He is the first make-up artist to do not only a readable book about applying make-up, but a sweet, endearing and understandable one too. It's almost too much.

In his introduction to *Making Faces*, which went straight to the top of the US non-fiction book chart last month, Aucoin says he hates the words "acceptable" and "normal". He also strongly believes there are no rules to applying make-up; we have to find our own way, just as he did.

Aucoin spent his childhood using his little sister, Carla, as a model. We see her aged four, eight, 10, 12 and 14, transformed by her brothers' deft hand. Today Aucoin is regarded as one of the best make-up artists in the world, despite his lack of formal training. Models swear by him, so do movie stars and Everywoman, which is no doubt why this new book has been so popular in the States. He shows us every kind of make-up technique in the book, and it is



The secret's in the make-up: Marilyn Monroe – or is it Lisa Marie Presley?

visually demonstrated on Julia Roberts, Gena Rowlands, Tina Turner, teenagers and even a transvestite, with "how to" pictures, text and handy tips.

The single most important thing that comes across from this book is that make-up, applied correctly, is one of the most powerful tools a woman can have. He shows us Sandy, a fifty-something black woman, whom he turns from a Cleo Laine lookalike into Diana Ross. He shows us 44-year-old Catherine, whose severe look he softens, and in the process makes appear 10 years younger. He also demonstrates the power of a make-up as a transformer, with Drew Barrymore as a convincing Marlene Dietrich, and Isabella Rossellini as Barbra Streisand.

Basically, this is a make-up book for people who are scared of make-up, but don't want to be. Even I discovered the correct way to pluck my eyebrows.

Melanie Rickey

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20/FAMILY AFFAIRS

Husband v wife: crossing the battle lines



Professor Gottman: 'The basic complaint we get from men is that they feel criticised by a wife who has an infinite list of unreasonable demands'

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Men are hopeless at talking about their feelings and incapable of facing emotional problems, and that's why so many marriages end in divorce, right? Not exactly, says Professor John Gottman. Jack O'Sullivan listens.

Neanderthal man is a little out of fashion these days on American campuses, so it's not often that you hear an urban American professor preaching his virtues. But John Gottman, professor of psychology at the University of Washington in Seattle, is getting very excited about *In Defence of the Cave Men*. It's currently running on Broadway and for the professor, fast becoming America's top marriage guru, the play is a great example of just how good men can be at relationships.

"There's this exchange," he explains, "where the wife says, 'How can you be friends with Harry. I don't understand the basis of the friendship.' Why?" says the husband. "We've been friends for years." But he's such a miser," replies the wife. "Such a penny pincher. It's so obnoxious." Yeah," says the husband. "But he's my miser."

"In other words," explains the professor, "he is saying that he accepts all his friend's faults. It's like a shot that you've broken in. It's comfortable because you like it and know it. He accepts his friend with all his faults and just appreciates what's positive about the relationship. Men are much better at that. Women are more idealistic, so in their relationships they work and work on problems and talk about their feelings and try to make the relationship work better and better."

In a way it's a strength because the female approach can make for improved relationships. But, says the professor, it can also lead to great disillusionment – and divorce.

This is not a perspective usually offered in the great debate about the massive rate of marriage breakdown. Discussion typically leads to a resounding chorus: Men are the real problem. It is a theme likely to echo today at a major conference on "The Chaos of Love", sponsored by One Plus One, the marriage research charity. After all, nearly three quarters of divorce proceedings are begun by women. And in existing marriages, there seems to be plenty of evidence that women are getting a raw deal. Little more than half of married women would choose the same spouse if they had a second chance. In contrast, nearly three quarters of guys would pick the same wife. The answer seems obvious: Men have to change. Everything, says the conventional wisdom, would be OK if only they became more like women, who, as the great emotional communicators, are assumed to have monopolised the skills required for successful wedlock.

For Professor Gottman, however, the issue is a little more complicated. In some ways, women need to become more like men if marriages are to succeed. He has spent two decades at his Washington "love lab", recording the interactions of couples in an effort to develop scientifically proven advice on how to make a marriage last. In one study he successfully predicted correctly 94 per cent of those who would be heading for divorce in three years' time. So he knows a thing or two about what makes a marriage thrive. At \$5, bearded and sporting a skull cap, Professor Gottman

HOW TO ARGUE WITHOUT RUINING YOUR MARRIAGE

1. The magic 5 to 1 ratio: make sure there is five times as much positive feeling and interaction between you and your partner as there is negative
2. Remove blame from your comments
3. Say how you feel
4. Listen to your partner
5. Don't criticise or try to analyse your partner's personality
6. Don't insult, mock or use sarcasm
7. Be direct and stick with one situation, rather than dragging up the past
8. Learn how to calm yourself when floods of emotion block communication. Discuss how you can take a break
9. Try to think of your partner's good qualities – praise and admire them
10. Look at these principles again and again. It takes a long time to learn new habits.

on the ball field, arguing endlessly over the rules – but they just don't seem to attach the same importance that girls do to their arguments. In the most intense debates during boys' games, the final word is always to 'play it over'. The goal is to literally 'keep the ball in play', to not let the emotions rule.

But there is also a physiological factor behind male inclination to withdraw in instances of marital rows. Men find it very hard to relax again once their heart rates reach a

certain level and the system floods with adrenaline. "If you had 20 men and 20 women in this room," says the professor, "and banged on the desk, you would find that the male heart rate goes up higher and stays up longer than the women's. So whereas men are more likely to say 'I need to cool down, I need a break, I need to stop talking about this,' women will keep wanting to talk out an issue and become very distraught. But it is healthier for men to withdraw

clearly superior to women in the interpersonal realm," he says, "in the ability to play. In a close marital relationship, men are just better in the silly areas, in being aware of the absurdity of life, in their ability to laugh at themselves. Women are just much, much more serious. It is the guy who will throw the snowball at his wife as she is walking out of church. Women really like humour and appreciate it in men. And it really benefits children. The ability of a father to be a playful turns out to be very important in helping children learn the ability to regulate their emotions. Fathers who are playful with their kids have children who get very excited, but are able to calm down. They have a much better relationship with other children – it's true of daughters as well as sons."

Professor Gottman's book by no means cheerleads for men in marriage. His research has not surprisingly identified the seismic rift in many marriages as being the inability of many men to communicate their feelings and emotions to women in an acceptable form, leading to dissatisfaction among women. Great frustration is also felt at male failure to engage with female complaints, by stonewalling and defensiveness.

Men and women, he concludes, are each prisoners of an evolutionary heritage ill-suited to successful modern marriage. "For men," says the professor, "the problem is our role of keeping vigilant, making sure everyone is safe. That is in some ways now a liability. It explains why after a marital conflict men are much more likely to be rehearsing thoughts that maintain distress. They are maintaining vigilance until they get a chance to retaliate." And in the male model of friendship? "One way in which men are

because they are taking care of their bodies. Women are very bad at knowing when they need a break." This explains why some women will stay in a relationship that is really harmful to them.

This is then one lesson that women can learn from men – that sometimes it is important to take time out when arguing, rather than pursue the matter relentlessly.

Are there any other virtues in the male model of friendship?

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22/LEADER & LETTERS

To some, Mr Blunkett, it may now seem an exclusion zone



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E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Museum charges

Sir: Any government that tolerates *de facto*, through the erosion of museum funding (leading article, 1 December), the imposition of entry charges, should be aware that it invites direct comparison with its 18th and 19th-century predecessors. It proposes to rewrite the will of those idealistic and public-spirited earlier generations, expressed in the principle of free public access, in the name of our present society that prides itself on its more democratic principles.

The high reputation of British art internationally follows a period of over 200 years of free admission to some of the world's greatest collections – not for leisure or recreation but for real study, often of individual works, in concentrated short visits.

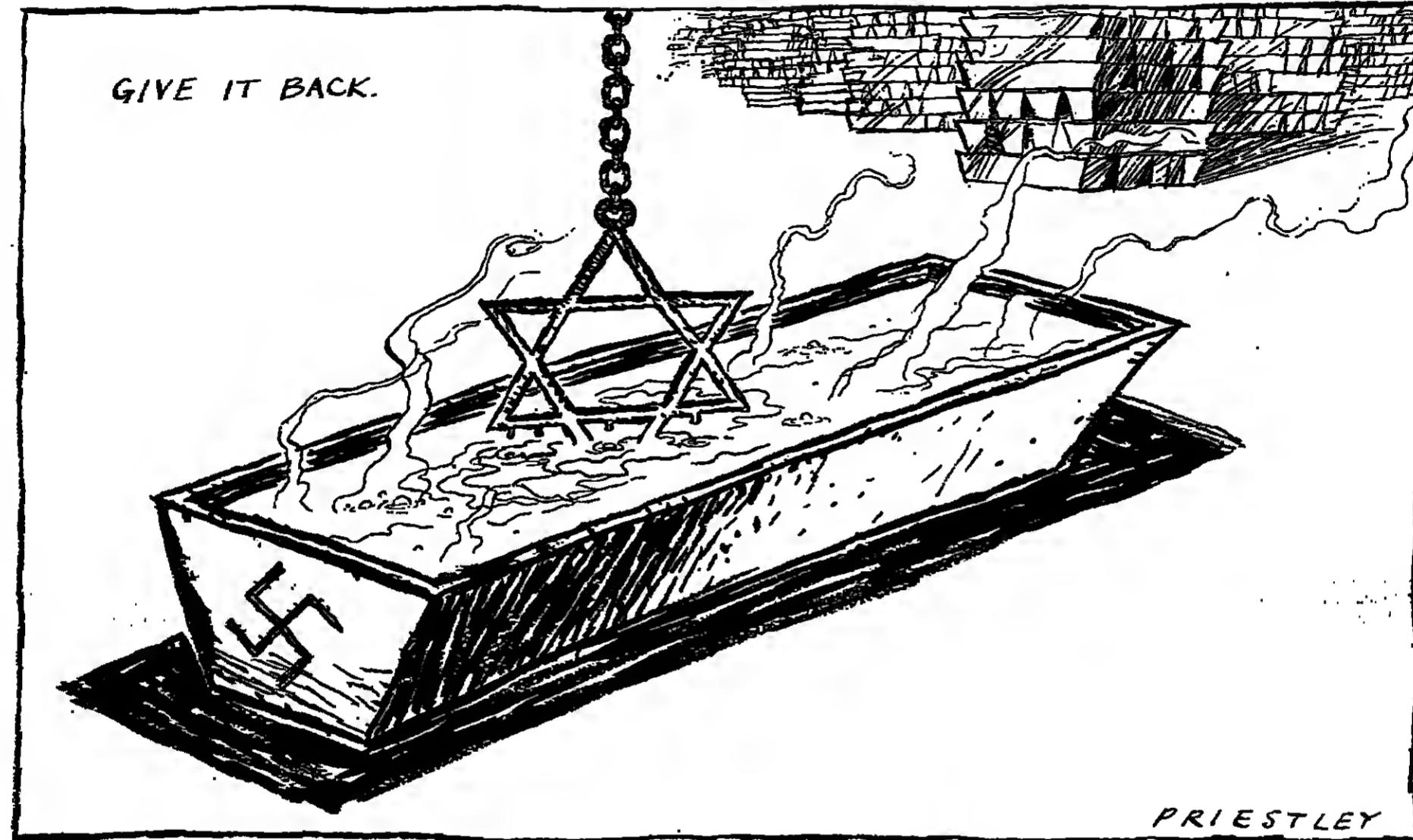
All artists can testify passionately to the importance of these encounters. They give contemporary visual culture here a particular and subtle aesthetic awareness. How could any government, without shame, allow this inheritance to be lost?

CHRISTOPHER LE BRUN;
RICHARD DEACON; RITA
DONAGH; ANTONY
GORMLEY; MAGGI
HAMBLING; RICHARD
HAMILTON; PATRICK
HERON; DAVID HOCKNEY;
ALLEN JONES; ANISH
KAPOOR; R. B. KITAJ;
RICHARD PATTERSON;
FIONA RAE; PAULA REGO;
BRIDGET RILEY; EUAN
UGLOW; BILL WOODROW
London SE5

Immigration

Sir: The coverage of the influx of Romany refugees has highlighted the suspicious tenor of the British response to claims of asylum. Implicit in the negative tone of the national debate on immigration is an extremely primitive view of the economic effects of any population movement into this country. It is assumed that migrants are parasites; that they are unassimilable; that they are, in fact, thieves who have roamed in order to "steal our benefits". These myths should be dissected and examined critically.

It is true that in areas where immigrants are initially concentrated, housing and welfare resources can be strained. However, such expenditures should be regarded as an in-



PRIESTLEY

vestment. Immigrant communities tend to be relatively young; the more mobile are usually the better educated; and the dynamic psychology of building a new life contributes towards entrepreneurship and a stronger work-ethic. I do not claim that these generalisations are invariable, merely that they are true often enough to make immigration a net contributor to economic growth.

Setting aside the question of our duty towards the persecuted, the time has come for a coherent national policy to be formulated on economic immigration. We face structural problems of an ageing population, skill shortages and the stagnation of certain regions. A properly worked out quota strategy would go a long way in helping to ameliorate some of these (and other) problems. A Royal Commission on Immigration would be an appropriate first step.

JOE BORD
Balliol College, Oxford

Sir: It may be laudable to prosecute agents who abet and often abuse illegal immigrants ("Gangs move into people smuggling", 27 November). But genuine asylum seekers also use, and sometimes require, the services of agents, who may provide the only way for the asylum seeker to flee to safety.

This is a problem caused in part by the UK government. During the last several years the Government has enforced carrier liability fines against airlines and more recently ferry companies for transporting undocumented asylum seekers and economic migrants here; it has imposed visa restrictions, making it more difficult for asylum seekers to travel legally to the UK; and it has detained thousands of asylum seekers who arrive here with false travel documents. An agent, no matter how unsavoury, may be the only option available under these measures created by the Home Office to deter asylum seekers.

We should also remember that had not illegal agents and false documents existed prior to and during the Second World War, today's Jewish diaspora would hardly exist.

SHERMAN CARROLL
*Director of Public Affairs
Medical Foundation for the
Care of Victims of Torture
London NW5*

Sir: Guy Carless (letter, 26 November) and the Rev Peter Hawkins (letter, 27 November) are both wrong. The "US" couple who have moved to Colchester are in fact a German citizen and his American wife. As an EU citizen, he has every right to settle in Colchester with his family, just as we could settle in say, Bochum, in Germany.

For the record, the single largest group of would-be immigrants / visitors who are declined entry at Heathrow airport are US citizens.

ROBIN BHALLA
London NW2

BSE inquiry

Sir: You report (2 December) that a public inquiry is to be constituted into the BSE crisis. Apparently "a senior figure will be appointed to head the inquiry and it is likely to have similar powers as the Scott Inquiry into the arms to Iraq affair".

As solicitor representing the families who have lost members to new variant CJD, may I suggest the following potential shortcomings in the planned inquiry?

1. The inquiry needs to be headed by a senior judge. The task of reviewing the documentation from a sceptical viewpoint must fail to someone whose experience of objective enquiry will not be in doubt. A senior civil servant or political figure would not necessarily satisfy this criterion.

2. The Scott Inquiry was constituted on an *ad hoc* basis without powers of subpoena of either people or documents. The BSE inquiry should be co-

stituted under the terms of the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921 so as to confer those powers, particularly since there is likely to be a need to seek discovery of some papers from non-governmental sources. The Scott Inquiry was delayed at least in part because it had to rely upon the agreement of government departments to disclose papers thought to be material.

3. The Scott Inquiry did not take evidence on oath; as a consequence a great deal of time was taken in allowing those who had given evidence to review what had been said before the inquiry reached its final conclusions. The BSE inquiry will need to review evidence from many people, some of whom, by virtue of their employment, will not wish to volunteer to give evidence, but whose contribution nevertheless will be critical to a proper understanding of the way in which BSE arose and the way it was dealt with. The 1921 Act provides for the taking of evi-

dence on oath in the same way that evidence in contested litigation would be taken on oath.

The Royal Commission on Tribunals of Inquiry in 1966 urged that the inquisitorial machinery in the 1921 Act be confined to matters of vital public importance concerning which there was something in the nature of a nationwide crisis of confidence. The BSE crisis most surely satisfies this criterion.

D I B BODY
*Irvine Mitchell Solicitors
Sheffield*

Lenin: late but great

Sir: You report that "seventy years ago this month, Lenin banned commercial advertising" (report, 28 November). Not bad for a chap who had been dead three and a half years. It is a pity New Labour cannot muster the same vigour when dealing with tobacco advertising.

R M ARSDEN
Leicester

Sir: British postage stamps and most envelopes are gummed with adhesives of plant origin; therefore licking them does not conflict with the principles of religious and vegetarian communities (letter, 29 November).

The assurances don't extend to materials used in the preparation and printing of the stamp. We continue research into likely alternatives from the plant world to replace sizes and gelling agents derived from milk, eggs, and products from renderers and fellmongers.

ALAN LONG
*Vegetarian Economy and
Green Alliance
Greenford, Middlesex*

Sir: Independent readers will be hungry to know that stamp glue is not made from animals. The glue is actually made from polyvinyl alcohol.

GILES FINNEMORE
*Stamps Advertising Manager
Royal Mail
London EC2*

another pr

What have we here? An unmissable opportunity to join the Millennium Hall of Infamy



MILES
KINGTON

As far as fame goes, I am happy to have remained in the shallow end of public recognition, down among the paddlers and the non-swimmers, where the worst that can happen to you is to get occasional letters from charities who are putting fund-raising books together ("We would be tremendously grateful if you could let us know your favourite recipe/dream/travel/story/childhood memory. We have already had contributions from Jeffrey Archer/Edwina Currie/Gyles Brandreth...")

Which is why I was slightly startled to receive a letter this week which began thus:

"Dear Mr Kington, it is indeed a great pleasure to enclose your invitation to be a distin-

guished biographer of THE MILLENNIUM HALL OF FAME which will showcase the lives of men and women who have made this century great. The volume will be published in mid-1998. The Governing Board of Editors has nominated several hundred individuals from its vast international Who's Who archive to be featured in this history-making event. Congratulations on your nomination."

As you can imagine, my cheeks went a gentle burning pink and my eyes stole slyly to the top of the letter to see who could possibly be such a mis-judge of character. It was the dear old American Biographical Institute.

No, I don't know, either. But

apparently they have been publishing biographical references since 1967, and they live in Raleigh, North Carolina, and they think so highly of their forthcoming book (THE MILLENNIUM HALL OF FAME) that they would like me to have a copy.

Well, to buy a copy.

"As a nominee for the MILLENNIUM HALL OF FAME you have the option of reserving a copy of the volume for your own personal library. Your biography will be compiled by our Senior Editor who will mail you a proof of your life's story prior to the publication's release... It is certain to be one of the most sought-after reference works of the past one hundred years."

And that is not all. "Biographers are also eligible for the MILLENNIUM Statue appropriately honoring those invited to be a part of posterity. A beautiful HALL OF FAME TESTIMONIAL PLAQUE is available as well. I have put together a special package option of all three items at a reduced cost than when ordered separately."

Gliding swiftly over the doubtful grammar of that last sentence, I turn to the special package option, a green leaflet illustrating the Hall of Fame Statue – which looks exactly like a gravestone with one's name on – and giving me more details of the book, or rather of "...this everlasting, interesting and motivating volume on global

bookshelves... in which you can document the legacy of your accomplishments – at least one page, if not more, will be dedicated to you and your portrait, as well as your philosophies."

The letter ends, before giving details of payment. "I would like to thank you, on behalf of the Institute, for your many contributions to humankind," which convinces me, if I didn't know it before, that they have got the wrong man. But I can also feel a thank you letter forming in my mind. It goes something like this.

"Dear ABI, Tempted

though I am to order your Statue at only US\$375, or indeed the Hall of Fame volume itself, which I note is also

"Thirdly, I do not wish to join posterity until I am dead,

"Fourthly, I do not wish my biography to be written by your Senior Editor, I want it to be written either by Michael Holroyd or, failing that, by *The Independent's* Obituary Department.

"Fifthly, the only decent portrait I have of myself, I sent about two years ago to a glossy magazine which wanted a black and white mugshot to go with an article, and they haven't sent it back yet.

"If this response disappoints you, may I suggest that you get in touch instead with Jeffrey Archer, Edwina Currie and Gyles Brandreth? I enclose their addresses.

Yours sincerely..."

Religion in the Middle East: the fundamental problem

ROBERT
FISK
THE ROCK
OF BELIEF

After the recent tourist massacre at Luxor, the Western press blamed the usual suspects: "Islamic madness," *Paris Match* called the killings, without putting inverted commas around the word "Islamic", while going on to describe the murderers as "Allah's lunatics". Not long ago, it was *Time* magazine whose cover story on the New York bombings was headlined "Islamic terror" - as if one of the world's great religions specifically sanctioned attacks on the World Trade Centre.

When a Jewish settler - an officer in the Israeli army reserve called Baruch Goldstein - burst into a Hebron mosque in 1994 and massacred 29 Muslims there were no headlines about "Jewish madness". Goldstein, presented by his friends as a homely Jewish doctor who had become enraged by Arab "terror", was referred to as "deranged" and a "fanatic". At no point was his religion connected to his act. Similarly the Christian Phalangists who slaughtered up to 2,000 Palestinian civilians - most of them Muslims - in the Sabra and Chatila camps in Beirut in 1982. This particular bloodbath was not called "Christian madness", nor were its perpetrators described as "Christ's lunatics" - even though many had pictures of the Virgin Mary taped to their gun-butts. No, the 1982 massacre was portrayed as Arabs killing Arabs, or - in the infamous words of Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin, whose Israeli soldiers had surrounded the camps and were watching the killings - "goyin' killing goyin'".

There's a double standard at work here, of course. But also a desire to avoid confronting a very frightening phenomenon, one that we desperately hope - and, if we have faith in any god, pray - is not true: that the bloodshed visited upon the innocent in the Middle East may not be the result of religion used as a cynical tool for a political aim, but may spring instead from the religion itself. What we do not want to think about in the region - what we cannot accept - is that the three great eastern religions of Islam, Christianity and Judaism may themselves bear some responsibility for the atrocities committed in their name.

It is an odd and disturbing fact that adherents of these faiths often seem more liberal

the further they are from their holiest cities of Jerusalem and Mecca. The English vicar, the liberal rabbi in London, the Muslim sheikh in Birmingham are folk we enjoy meeting. But the moment we encounter the Christian right-wing pilgrims to Jerusalem, the Jewish supporters of Eretz Israel in the West Bank, or the Saudi religious police in Mecca with their absolute belief in Islamic *sharia* law (obligingly passed on to their chums in the Taliban in Afghanistan), the less attractive these religions become.

I noticed this in Beirut back in 1990 when Lebanon's Christian rebel general Michel Aoun had launched a hopeless "war of liberation" against the Syrians. The Pope began praying for the Maronite Catholics of Lebanon and Cardinal John O'Connor of New York arrived to offer his condolences to the Maronites - but not to the Muslim families who had suffered under Aoun's shellfire. Aoun - now exiled in Paris - was a messianic figure who banned opposition newspapers from his area of Beirut and ordered the midnight arrest of army officers; but around the doors of his bunker above Beirut there fluttered many a cape of Vatican purple.

Of course, every religion has its real eccentric. One of my favourites is Father Neil Horan of London, a priest who regularly writes to me to explain why his reading of the Bible has convinced him that a nuclear world war will start over the possession of Jerusalem - a "war of Armageddon, the war to end all wars" - during which Jesus will return to earth and become chief of staff of the Israeli army. After this, according to a map Mr Horan has sent me, Israel will occupy the entire Gulf (including Saudi Arabia), the Egyptian Sinai, half of Iraq, three quarters of Syria and all of Lebanon.

Mr Horan states that the Jews' claim to Jerusalem is the only valid one and that traditional Muslim beliefs about the Bible are "false and malicious". These rambblings may be harmless enough; less so, however, when the Jews' right to all of Jerusalem is supported by tens of thousands of armed settlers living illegally on occupied Arab land and by members of the Israeli cabinet. And the American Christian right - both feared and respected by US presidential candidates - took a full-page advertisement in the *New York Times* last spring to urge Christian support for Israel's claim to all of Jerusalem, even though such a demand struck a dagger at the heart of the so-called "peace process".

Prominent among the names

that advertisement was Pat Robertson, the US evangelist whose friends used to give financial support to a Christian fundamentalist radio station in southern Lebanon which not only proselytised hopelessly among Shiite Muslims, but carried regular threats against the local Muslim villages of Lebanon.

banned in 1992), to the Arabs who fought in Afghanistan - some of whom now constitute the core of "Islamist" violence against the north African regimes - and to the totalitarian, sexist and brutal Taliban. It remains the case that few Islamic scholars have tried - or dared - to condemn the most barbarous acts supposedly carried out in Islam's name. The number of Muslim preachers who have passed sentence against the butchers of Algeria's villages is pitifully few. The



Religions in conflict: a soldier stands guard on a Jerusalem rooftop. Below, a visitor pays homage at the tomb of Baruch Goldstein

Main photograph: Rick Bowmer/AP

sheikh of Al Azhar, the ancient Islamic university in Cairo, reproached the Luxor killers of the *Gema'a Islamiyah* (Islamic Group) last week. But he was almost alone in doing so. When last March, another Egyptian Muslim extremist group -

Yet it is not much different to the words of a pamphlet delivered to the door of a Muslim reader of *The Independent* who - quite correctly - handed it at once to the police. It was sent in the name of Kahane Chai (Kahane Lives), named after Meir Kahane, the fanatically racist American rabbi with an arrest record for conspiring to manufacture explosives, who was murdered by an Arab in New York in 1990. The pamphlet promised an Israel that would stretch "from the borders of Russia to the River Nile" and warned the Muslim recipient that if he and his family and other Muslims resisted Israel and refused to make peace on Israel's terms, they would be treated like the victims of the massacre at Qana - when more than a hundred Muslim refugees were slaughtered by Israeli army artillery fire in a UN camp in southern Lebanon last year. "Muslims, your lives are [to] ours like the sheep to the butcher," it said.

One of Meir Kahane's most ferocious supporters was Baruch Goldstein - or "Dr" Baruch Goldstein as I was told to call him by a pro-Israeli *Independent* reader who insisted he could never be defined as a "terrorist" - who killed the 29 Palestinian worshippers in the Hebron mosque. The tomb of this mass-murderer is now a shrine in the nearest Jewish settlement to Hebron, a place of pilgrimage for thousands of right-wing Israeli Jews.

The climate still exists, of course. In Washington, Muslim murderers remain "terrorists"; Jewish and Christian murderers of the Middle East are not "terrorists". One of the bravest men to raise these double standards is Dr Israel Shahak, author and retired professor of organic chemistry at the Hebrew university in Jerusalem, whose examination of Jewish religious fundamentalism is invaluable. In his new book *Jewish History, Jewish Religion*, he concludes that "there can no longer be any doubt that the most horrifying acts of oppression in the West Bank are motivated by Jewish religious fanaticism". He quotes from an official exhortation to religious Jewish soldiers about Gentiles, published by the Israeli army's Central Region Command in which the chief chaplain writes: "When our forces come across civilians during a war or in hot pursuit or a raid, so long as there is no certainty that those civilians are incapable of harming our forces, then according to the Halakhah (the legal system of classical Judaism) they may and even should be killed... In no circumstances should an Arab be trusted, even if he makes an impression of being civilised... In war, when our

forces storm the enemy, they are allowed and even enjoined by the Halakhah to kill even good civilians, that is, civilians who are ostensibly good."

This disgusting advice may not, of course, be heeded. Nor may the frightful appeals of Algerian "Islamist" groups. We can comfort ourselves by concluding that every religion has its extremists, that fundamentalism is an aberration rather than the logical result of any literal reading of the Middle East's holy books. Is there a problem because there is no New Testament for two of these religions - no message of "turning the other cheek"? Or because there was no renaissance in the Middle East? It would be pleasant to draw some coherent explanation.

Alas, I fear there may not be one. Religion is about ultimate truth and faith. And those who believe in such total truths - to the extinction of other, invalid "truths" - live

near their holy cities. Fundamentalists, after all, help rule Saudi Arabia, Iran, Afghanistan, Sudan and - given the make-up of Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet - Israel as well. The Egyptian government has co-opted fundamentalist preachers. The Christian fundamentalist right in America exerts its baleful influence over the Middle East. And when an Arab scholar last year asked the Pope to apologise for the Crusades - the greatest act of ethnic cleansing and barbarism in the Middle East in a thousand years - he received only silence by way of reply.

Are extremists - the killers and the racists or the eccentrics - mere defects in the world of religion? Or are they an inevitable part of it in the Middle East? I fear the latter. Perhaps it is time we recognised this poison for what it is. For there is nothing so hard as the rock of belief. And nothing so potentially cruel.



Just another product that doesn't match the packaging

"Annual income £20; annual expenditure £19, 19 shillings and sixpence: result: happiness. Annual income £20; annual expenditure £20 and sixpence: result: misery."

Our present period, with its vigour and its uncertainties, in so many ways is coming to resemble the Victorian age. Su Mr Micawber's golden rule above becomes more and more relevant. We have to get people - all people, not just the rich - to save more.

Like then we are in a period of very rapid economic change, with a host of new inventions and services hitting the market, and new businesses springing up to meet new perceived needs. People with professional, business or craft skills are doing very well. On the other hand, job security has largely disappeared, and family structure is under strain - through the reason that marriages don't last now is divorce, rather than the death of a spouse.

This combination of uncertainty and vigour makes it more necessary for people to build up a cushion of savings, and also more possible to do so. If the welfare state cannot be relied up to support people comfortably 20 or 30 years from now - and adverse demography alone would put great pressure on any pay-as-you-go welfare system, however well-designed - at least people's savings are not

whittled away by savage inflation.

The trouble is that though one half of the country is building up a sizeable cushion of savings through pension plans and home ownership as well as all the other incentives introduced in the last 15 years such as Peps and Tessas, the other half is not.

That is the claimed logic behind the new tax-free Individual Savings Accounts, details of which were outlined yesterday by Geoffrey Robinson, the paymaster-general: extend the savings habit to all - to the people who do not even have bank accounts - rather than confine it to the relatively sophisticated people who are currently building up their nest-eggs.

The principle certainly deserves a welcome. The idea of an ISA is modelled on the US Individual Retirement Account - they had to change the initials for obvious reasons - so there is quite a lot of experience around of this sort of plan. This is not really pioneering stuff: it is simply applying good international practice to the UK. The idea of trying to redistribute savings incentives away from the present, relatively sophisticated group of savers, towards the non-savers, also makes sense. If everyone had an ISA as a matter of normal practice, we would be well on the way to one-nation Victorianism, not the two-nation version to which


HAMISH
MCRAE
TAX-FREE
SAVINGS

we are in danger of returning.

The problem, as so often seems to happen with this Government, is that when you look at the detail, the product does not match the packaging. The reason is that the new plan, instead of being in addition to existing savings incentives, replaces them. Peps and Tessas have been very successful in extending the savings habit. The Treasury is always twitchy about supposed loss of revenue, and the tax-free status of the soaring balances in Peps has caused it particular concern.

If the Government really wanted

to prioritise savings it would do something different. It might, for ex-

ample, keep Peps and Tessas, pegging the amount to be paid in at present levels. Or it would allow a larger amount to be transferred into the ISA. Or it would increase the size of the total funds in an ISA pot to £100,000. Or whatever. Ask the tough question: will this plan increase the total amount of savings in the country? Probably not. In fact it might in the short run have the opposite effect: the present band of savers (who lose incentives) may save less, while the new band (who gain incentives) may take a while to save more.

So what is to be done? I suggest two responses. One is for the Government to listen to the representations of the savings industry. Of course, like any lobby, it will make a cause to suit itself. Nevertheless, it does know a lot about savings and the way in which tax incentives are likely to be effective in boosting them. By contrast the Treasury team, with the exception of Mr Robinson, who does know a thing or two about tax-efficient savings schemes (of which more in a moment), are babes in the wood. There is a long and dishonourable history of tax incentives not having the desired effect - look at the way money for Business Expansion Schemes did not go into business but into buying new halls of residence for universities.

The second thing is that they

should seek to create a culture of saving. People do want to try and manage their money better. You may recall a couple of weeks ago we ran a series of articles about the attitudes of young people in this country. The most important practical skill listed by young people was "being able to manage money properly". This is not a response of the elite. People with no qualifications and the unemployed were the most likely of all to pick this.

So there is a great base of common sense here on which to build. Saving is the key to money management, for the harsh reality is those least able to afford to borrow are those who are charged the most. I suspect that if some small portion of the money that goes in savings incentives were deployed into education in basic financial management, the effect on the country would be enormous. There would be far fewer Mr Micawbers in the future.

As for the people who resent losing their Peps and Tessas, I have a further suggestion. To replace their PEPs people should start PGPs. This stands for Paymaster-General Plans, which involve setting up offshore trusts in Guernsey. These have the full approval of the Cabinet ... and I'm sure Mr Robinson would be only too delighted to tell you how it was done for him.

Bulgaria in Crisis

Appeal to Independent Readers

LEFT TO FREEZE
Yordan, 14, already malnourished could die from cold and hunger this winter unless aid reaches him now. With temperatures plummeting to -15°C Yordan's scant clothing and no shoes offer him little protection from the bitter cold and there is no money to heat his orphanage. There are 37,000 places in Bulgaria's orphanages.

No Money To Feed The Children No Money To Heat The Orphanages

Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Unless urgent help is sent, thousands of children will suffer terribly this winter.

There is little money to heat the orphanages. Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Without aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's orphanage children.

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need. Your gift today will save lives and bring hope.

• £28 could buy enough emergency food packs to feed 20 orphanage children for a week or heat an orphanage for 3 days.

Please send whatever you can to help children survive the winter or call 01273 299399 NOW

I enclose £_____ to save Bulgarian orphanage children. Cheques to The European Children's Trust. Or debit my Access/Visa/CAF card

Card no. _____ Expiry date. _____

Signature. _____ Date. _____

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms. _____

Address. _____ Postcode. _____

Telephone no. _____

Return to: Tanya Barron, (D110), Bulgaria Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KES159, 64a Queen Street, LONDON, EC1B 4AB or call 01273 299399 NOW. Registered Charity No. 1048737

The European Children's Trust

Please act NOW - winter is coming

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FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

NatWest chiefs under pressure as sale of investment banking arm leaves £637m hole

The position of NatWest's top management looked increasingly precarious last night after it emerged that the sale of large parts of NatWest Markets would leave a £637m hole in the accounts this year. Lea Paterson examines the group's failure to become a main force in investment banking.

National Westminster Bank is to split the equities business of NatWest Markets, its investment banking arm, between Frankfurt-based Deutsche Morgan Grenfell (DMG) and the US Bankers' Trust in a £179m deal.

The deal, which will leave NatWest nursing more than £600m in trading losses, provisions and other charges, dismayed the City and led to renewed doubts about the future of its chairman Lord Alexander and chief executive Derek Wanless.

Mr Wanless said: "We have been unsuccessful in developing this business and have therefore taken the very tough decision to effect an orderly exit as being in the best interests of shareholders and NatWest as a whole."

DMG, the investment banking arm of Germany's Deutsche Bank, is to buy NatWest's Asian and US equity derivatives business for £50m, Bankers' Trust, which snapped up NatWest's European cash equities for £129m. NatWest is to retain "a proportion of its UK equity derivatives book", which will be wound down. "It's the bit that neither Bankers' nor DMG wanted," commented one insider.

Both DMG and Bankers'



Derek Wanless, chief executive of NatWest: "We have taken the very tough decision to effect an orderly exit in the best interests of shareholders"

got a good deal, according to City analysts, who had previously put a price tag of between £300m and £400m on the two sets of businesses. One commented: "One bad hoped NatWest might have done rather better with this sale".

Despite City criticism, Mr Wanless said he was pleased with the sale. He said: "The fact that we have achieved more than net asset value is good. We are satisfied with the price." NatWest achieved a surplus of £55m over net asset value for the businesses, but analysts pointed out that this was before a goodwill adjustment of £65m. One commented: "There is a

lot of accounting flexibility in these things".

Last month, Barclays sold parts of BZW, its investment banking arm, for £50m less than book value.

NatWest expects its investment banking activities to lose £637m in the year to December, it was revealed yesterday. NatWest Markets is predicted to make an operating loss of £210m, and NatWest is also set to take a £70m restructuring charge. In addition, the group has made a £7m provision for options mispricing discovered last March and an £80 post-Budget adjustment to finance lease receivables. John Leonard,

banking analyst at Salomon Brothers said: "The disappointing element [of the announcement] is the large loss and the size of restructuring charge".

Mr Wanless attributed the poor performance of NatWest Markets to two factors, its high cost base and the uncertainty surrounding the future of investment banking at NatWest. He emphasised that the losses did not in the main, stem from positions taken by NatWest's traders. But Chip Kruger, chief executive of NatWest Markets admitted: "That's not to say individual trades didn't lose money in October and November."

Mr Wanless yesterday said he was "committed" to the remainder of the businesses within NatWest Markets. But

some analysts doubt whether NatWest's substantial corporate advisory business could survive without its equity operations.

One said: "They've started unravelling the business and it's difficult to see where it's going to stop."

NatWest also announced yesterday that its US cash equities division is to close.

The bank has also had "a number of approaches regarding its Australian investment banking operations", and is "in discussions" about the sale of its Asia cash equities businesses.

Outlook, page 25

Stagecoach warns it will fight changes to leasing contracts

Rail and bus group Stagecoach was on a collision course with the Government last night after warning that it would resort to law if regulations were imposed to curb the profits from its rolling stock company, Porterbrook. Michael Hurson reports.

Brian Souter, the chairman of Stagecoach, served notice that any attempt to alter the leasing contracts Porterbrook has with the train operating companies would be resisted through the courts.

The warning follows confirmation that ministers may extend the regulatory regime governing the privatised rail industry to include the three rolling stock companies.

The businesses were sold off two years ago with guaranteed leasing contracts worth more than £2bn and have since proved a goldmine. Stagecoach, which paid £25m to acquire Porterbrook, disclosed yesterday that the rolling stock business generated £63m in operating profits in the first half of the year - more than 60 per cent of the group total - on revenues up by 8 per cent.

Mr Cochrane said: "If anyone tried to change our existing Porterbrook contracts it would be a major legal issue. Our view is that these are contracts under law and any change would be challenged by us under law."

Stagecoach's finance director, Keith Cochrane, added that it expected to hold discussions with ministers or officials in the near future to argue its case.

Mr Cochrane said that amending the contracts would be unprecedented and would deter other private sector businesses from providing finance for the rail industry. Porterbrook

Royal replaces two top executives

Royal & Sun Alliance yesterday took the market by surprise by replacing its two top executives.

The decision to relieve Richard Gamble as group chief executive entitles him to a pay-off of up to £750,000, equivalent to two years' pay.

Robert Mendelsohn, chief executive officer of Royal & Sun Alliance in the US, will take Mr Gamble's post. City sources said Mr Mendelsohn's appointment came out of the blue, as either Mr Gamble or Roger Taylor, executive deputy chairman, had been expected to steer the company following the merger of Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance in July last year.

Royal & Sun also announced yesterday that Mr Taylor would relinquish his executive duties, although he would retain a seat on the board and advise the group on external affairs. He will also continue as chairman of the Association of British Insurers.

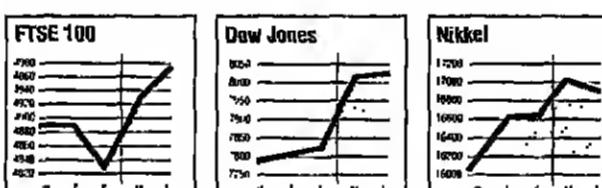
The company insisted the changes were expected. However, the move came as a pleasant surprise to the market, and Royal & Sun's shares closed up 14p at 560p.

The sparkling performance from Porterbrook helped Stagecoach to a 50 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £70.5m for the six months to the end of October. Its other rail business, South West Trains, made an operating profit of £7.8m on revenues up by 8 per cent.

Mr Cochrane confirmed that SWT was considering introducing one-man operation on its trains and extending its experiment with automatic ticket barriers to more of its stations. SWT ran into a storm of protest and was fined by the rail regulator earlier this year after axing 10 per cent of its drivers and then being forced to cancel hundreds of services because of staff shortages.

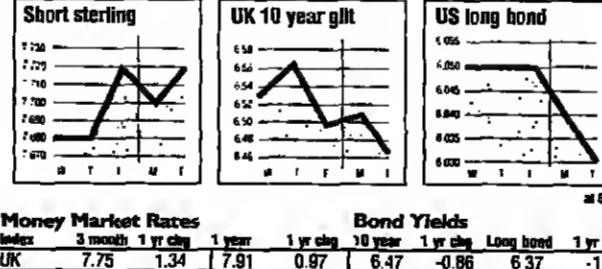
- Cathy Newman

STOCK MARKETS



Indices	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	4977.60	55.80	1.13	5367.30	3882.70	3.55
FTSE 250	4668.40	10.80	0.23	4963.80	4321.80	3.46
FTSE 350	2396.60	+2.80	0.06	2570.50	1935.70	3.53
FTSE All Share	2341.88	20.92	0.90	2507.68	1942.22	3.53
FTSE SmallCap	2275.0	1.90	0.08	2407.40	2127.50	3.41
FTSE MidCap	1433.6	2.30	0.19	1346.50	1198.70	3.45
FTSE AIM	970.6	3.50	0.36	1138.00	965.90	1.07
Dow Jones	8031.01	18.15	0.23	8299.93	6236.05	1.70
Nikkei	16910.29	-3.87	-0.03	21067.68	14966.13	0.91
Hang Seng	11216.35	465.47	4.33	16820.31	8775.88	3.78
Dax	4072.95	4.91	0.12	4459.89	2760.76	1.96

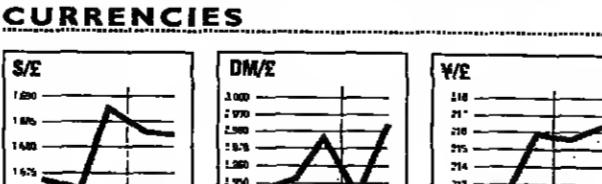
INTEREST RATES



MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg	Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg
BICC	162.00	10.00	6.58	Perpetual	2420.00	177.50	-6.83
Hambros	267.00	16.00	6.37	Brit Tech	115.50	-4.00	-3.63
Standard Charter	715.00	34.00	4.99	Taylor Woodrow	188.50	-5.50	-3.16
Lloyds TSB	718.00	34.00	4.97	M&G Group	1352.50	-42.50	-3.05

CURRENCIES



OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Date	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	18.07	-0.05	23.72	GDP	113.90	3.80
D-Mark (\$)	2.9855	-0.80pf	2.6155	Sterling	0.5984	+0.02pf
Yen (\$)	216.54	-10.68	192.64	D-Mark	1.7750	1.5461
E Index	105.40	-0.20	94.50	Yen	128.70	-10.36
					114.08	
					107.70	-0.30
					97.60	

source: Bloomberg

Beckett to approve £3.7bn Energy bid with dividend curbs

The Government is set to impose curbs on the £3.7bn takeover of the Energy Group by US utility PacifiCorp that would control the level of dividends it could take from its regional electricity company Eastern. Michael Hurson reports on a move which could have wide ramifications for the electricity sector.

electricity companies (RECs) are already owned by US utilities while three others are part of larger UK-based and run utility groups.

Any tightening of the regulatory regime which is applied to Eastern may also have to be extended to cover the other RECs which are now part of larger groups.

The Government is thought to have been concerned about the level of dividends PacifiCorp might seek to extract from Eastern because of the highly leveraged nature of its bid. The take-over would create a group with debts of nearly \$16bn, financed partly through junk bonds. Even after planned asset sales to help finance the bid, the combined business would still have debts of \$12bn and conventional gearing of 300 per cent.

The conditions being planned by the Department of Trade and Industry would give the Secretary of State direct powers to intervene if it was felt that the dividends being paid out from Eastern to the parent company were excessive or threatened its ability to finance its operations.

Mrs Beckett received the report of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into the takeover 11 days ago and is expected to publish its findings along with her decision early in the new year.

She referred the bid to the MMC in August because of concerns over whether it would be possible to maintain "adequate regulatory control" over the merged company.

The decision was taken against the advice of both the electricity regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, and the Director General of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman.

The verdict of PacifiCorp/Energy Group is being eagerly awaited because seven other regional

to block any moves by ministers to reduce the pressure on coal by reducing pollution standards.

The agency believes generators and mining companies could meet the obligations without an even bigger shift towards gas generation, which has much lower sulphur emissions.

The existing target says most of the drop in sulphur output would come from new gas power stations, while older coal stations would account for just a 6 per cent cut. Though the new targets have yet to be signed off, they are certain to demand a bigger contribution from coal stations.

The Agency has submitted its revised plans in evidence to the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee, which could be published before Christmas. Officials at the agency, which operates independently from Whitehall, believe that the demand is a matter of urgency.

The current targets set by the Inspectorate of Pollution last year are for power stations

later," another investment banker said.

The issue is believed to be the first in recent years where a financially sound company dispenses with underwriting fees. Previously, investment banks had sought to cut fees by putting part of the underwriting out to tender.

John Rutgers, director of investment services at the National Association of Pension Funds, said: "It shows that there is flexibility in the London underwriting market." Most observers said there was no reason why other companies should not adopt a similar approach.

The OFT was also positive. "This is just the sort of thing the Director General was looking for," said a spokesman.

- Peter Thal Larter

South Korea record \$100 billion bail-out

Virgin set to choose

ISAs aim to cap the Revenue's losses



OUTLOOK
ON THE NEW
SAVINGS SCHEMES,
BODYCOTE'S RIGHTS
ISSUE AND
NATWEST'S EXCUSES

Here is a test. You are the new Chancellor and your Permanent Secretary has just helpfully pointed out that the tax-free investment alternative promised in your election manifesto will cost the Exchequer squillions. It was had enough that the tax foregone on personal equity plans and Tassas, will be £1.25bn this year, rising to £1.7bn by the turn of the century. But did you know that your brand spanking new Individual Savings Account, aimed at low income earners, has the potential to cost a lot more in tax revenues than PEPs and Tassas ever did? Gulp. What do you do? The answer came yesterday, when the Treasury wheeled out a hapless Paymaster General, Geoffrey Robinson, to explain the Government's new ISA to a sceptical audience.

Yes, the ISA will enjoy virtually identical tax incentives to existing PEPs and Tassas plus bolt on goodies like instant access to a portion of the amount saved. But there will be one major difference: unlike existing PEPs, which allow maximum investments of up to £9,000 a year and no limit over time, the ISA will have an annual cap set at £5,000 and an upper ceiling of £50,000.

One of the admirable purposes of ISAs is to stimulate savings among a far wider swathe of people than PEPs and Tassas ever reached with their appeal to better-off folk with money to save.

There is no doubt that many will be better off with an ISA, even if it is to the tune of just a few pounds. But we should not pretend either that this is an exercise de-

signed solely to encourage poorer savers since the fiscal impetus behind the new savings schemes is to cap the amount the Revenue is losing from existing ones.

While poorer savers will get a better deal it will not make a jot of difference to the super rich. They, like Mr Robinson, will continue to invest their riches in offshore trusts where no Chancellor can get his hands on them.

Underwriting cartel is challenged

At last, a company with the gumption to challenge the City's underwriting cartel and launch a deeply discounted rights issue. But hold on a moment. Is anything actually being achieved here?

Bodycote and its merchant bank adviser, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, have decided to dispense with underwriting commissions altogether in raising £99m from shareholders. Instead the rights are being pitched at a deep discount to the prevailing price of Bodycote shares, so that even if the stock market collapses before the issue can close, Bodycote is still virtually guaranteed of getting its money.

The company thus saves itself the traditional 2 per cent underwriting fee, while retaining the money in the bank certainty which provides the main justification for such fees. Just the ticket.

So if this is such a great idea, why isn't it more commonly used? One possible ex-

planation is that in the wake of the recently ordered Monopolies and Mergers Commission probe into the underwriting cartel, the old system is already crumbling and the City is reforming itself under its own steam. In the old days companies would have been advised strongly against this approach, if only because it deprived the City of its commission.

Annoyingly for Dresdner, which now looks as if it is reacting to pressure, the deeply discounted route for Bodycote was under actually being planned before the MMC investigation was launched. But it is certainly the case that the threat of regulatory action has stirred the City into reform, of which this is an example.

Not have the merchant bankers and lawyers been left entirely penniless by the exercise. There is still a £2.4m charge to Bodycote in advisory fees (or 24 per cent of the sum raised), though to be fair most of this is accounted for by the related cost of the HIT acquisition in France.

Moreover, the Bodycote issue suffers from a familiar problem with deeply discounted rights; what the company gains in lack of underwriting commissions, it loses in terms of having to pay out enhanced dividends, which increase the long term costs of the capital raised. In order to make this issue attractive to shareholders, Bodycote is first increasing the dividend on the existing share capital by 34 per cent. The effect is that Bodycote will have an ongoing dividend cost on the new capital of about double what it pays on the old.

In Bodycote's case, this hardly matters.

The amount raised in relation to its total market capitalisation is relatively small. Bodycote is also a high growth stock with a tiny yield. The real test of a deeply discounted rights is going to be when it also involves a pro-rata cut in the dividend, to reduce the costs of the extra capital. Some shareholders, particularly small ones, object to this because if you don't take up your rights it leads to the illusion of reduced dividend income. Will the City go for such an approach? Now why does that seem so unlikely?

NatWest puts on a brave face

A personal letter to the shareholders of National Westminster Bank from the chairman Lord Alexander, and the chief executive, Derek Wanless. Dear shareholder. It looks bad, doesn't it? But in fact it isn't. Actually it's very good news for all of us really. Let's get the bad news over with first. Totalling up all the costs associated with our withdrawal from equities trading, we've arrived at a grand total of £637m, which will be charged to group profits this year.

This includes everything, you understand - trading losses, restructuring charges, that wretched option mispricing business and a wacking great post-budget adjustment to finance lease receivables, whatever they are. By the way, this last item definitely wasn't our fault, and as for the

rest, that can all largely be blamed on NatWest Markets' former chief executive, Martin Owen, who we have now fired.

We feel sure that you will give us credit, both for the speed with which we have grasped the nub and disposed of these businesses, and for the openness with which we have detailed the damage. The same cannot be said of that mob round a Barclays, who have not yet said how much their own parallel withdrawal from BZW is costing them.

Now for the good news. The very fact that we are getting all this out of the way now will enable us to deliver substantial improvements in our performance in 1998 and thereafter - £637m of improvement be precise. You can't say fairer than that, can you? As it turns out, these businesses were tying up a huge amount of capital - what we in banking call "weighted risk assets" - which is now available for use elsewhere. Given our record, you can surely rely on us to squander this money elsewhere now that it has been released. Ha! Ha! Only joking. Actually, we intend to return a big chunk of it to the shareholders. So you see it has all worked out rather well in the end.

A chapter is closed and we now offer a new beginning, new horizons, bigger and greater things... Oh all right then. Enough is enough and we agree to go quietly when suitable replacements are found.

Yours apologetically, etc etc, signed in the chairman's absence, squiggle, squiggle, PA to the chairman of National Westminster Bank.

South Korea to sign record \$55bn IMF bail-out package

South Korea is likely to sign an agreement for a rescue package with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) today, which will lay the basis for the biggest economic rescue in history. In Hong Kong Stephen Vines reports that the price of the rescue will be high and examines the chaotic negotiations to extricate Seoul from its economic crisis, while Leo Paterson in London looks at a tough-talking report on Japan.

The IMF is expected to contribute \$20bn (£11.8bn) to a \$55bn bail-out with the balance coming mainly from Japan, the United States and the Asian Development Bank. This tops the \$50bn bail out for the Mexican economy two years ago.

First signs of the price to be extracted emerged yesterday when the Korean government was reported to have suspended the licenses of nine merchant banks. However in the currently confused atmosphere prevailing in the capital Seoul, news of these suspensions came not from the government, which remained silent, but from the stock exchange which suspended trading in the companies' shares.

Reports from Seoul say that 12 merchant banks and two commercial banks are about to keel over under the pressure of bad debt. The IMF is insisting on restructuring of Korea's manifestly inadequate financial institutions which will involve both closures and shotgun marriages of ailing banks with more solidly based institutions.

The Korean government is finding it hard to come terms with the humiliation of seeking

the bail-out. Negotiations have proceeded by fits and starts with the government sending mixed signals about its willingness to bow to IMF demands.

However, it is becoming clear that ordinary Koreans will shoulder a heavy burden in consequence of this rescue. A predicted agreement with the IMF to reduce economic growth next year to 3 per cent, is estimated to push unemployment up to around 6 per cent of the workforce, compared with the current level of some 2.5 per cent.

The Korean economy has enjoyed an astonishing average level of growth of 8.6 per cent per year for the past three decades. This sharp reversal is unparalleled for many Koreans. Kim Dae-jung, the veteran opposition politician who may well triumph in the pending presidential elections, has pledged to renegotiate the terms of the IMF agreement.

The battle weary Korean stock market registered another fall of just over 4 per cent, while the fast shrinking local currency hit a new low with a further fall of 3.5 per cent against the US dollar.

For a change Korea's woes did little to affect sentiment elsewhere in Asia yesterday. Most Asian stock markets registered gains on the back of a strong performance on Wall Street on Monday and a surge in Japan on the same day.

The mood of cautious optimism was seen most clearly in Hong Kong where the blue-chip Hang Seng Index registered a gain of over 4 per cent, and, for the first time this month, climbed steadily throughout the day without being dragged down by selling pressure.

Share prices in Tokyo fell back only marginally after profit-taking kicked in following Monday's surge.

Talk of government intervention also helped firm up the



Alcopops: Sales of Merrydown's Two Dogs have been rocked by the public outcry

Merrydown in takeover talks

Merrydown, the beleaguered cider and alcopops maker, yesterday announced it was in takeover talks after plunging into the red. Andrew Yates finds the group is unlikely to retain its independence.

Merrydown is believed to be holding takeover talks with an international drinks group. However a bidding war could emerge with more rivals entering the fray, according to industry sources.

Pernod Ricard, which has close ties with Merrydown, having recently reached an agreement to distribute its controversial alcopop Two Dogs, is understood to be considering launching a bid.

Brewing giants Scottish & Newcastle and Whitbread, and cider rivals Matthew Clark and HP Bulmer could also be interested in making an approach but are not currently in talks with Merrydown. News of the talks sent the shares up 15p to 65.5p.

The announcement comes as Merrydown revealed it had lost £944,000 for the six months to September, compared to a profit of £673,000 last year.

Merrydown also revealed that Richard Purdey is to stand down as chairman after 32

years in the wake of growing criticism in the City of Merrydown's poor share price and operating performance. He was paid £95,000 last year and is on a two-year rolling contract, so he is entitled to a pay-off of around £190,000.

Matthew Jordan, drinks analyst at ABN Amro Hoare Govett, said: "This looks like Merrydown trying to sell themselves. The group needs to be snapped up by someone. If it remains independent it probably wouldn't last very long."

Mr Purdey said: "We expect to be in a position to decide whether a final bid has materialised well before Christmas."

Sales of Merrydown's Two Dogs have been rocked by the public outcry over alcopops and the decision by major retailers to stop stocking the brand.

Mr Purdey said: "Two Dogs sales have collapsed. The market was flooded by more than 90 new products and the effect has been cataclysmic."

Merrydown has also been hit by a rise in duty on strong ciders, which has lead to a pricing war.

Separately, Eldridge Pope announced a 23.6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £5.4m, and a shake up in its share structure aimed at entrenching its "A" shares. Old English Pub group also announced the acquisition of seven coaching inns for £5.1m.

Logica offers free computer course to lure new recruits

Logica, the UK information technology company, will today announce its latest innovation to plug the yawning skills gap in the computer industry - an all-fees paid university course in IT.

In a joint venture with the University of East London in Stratford, Logica is starting a four-week intensive course to train people who have no IT experience in basic IBM mainframe computing skills.

Logica will pay all course fees, amounting to tens of thousands of pounds in the initial phase, and guarantees to give all successful students a job at Logica as a technical consultant at its Brentwood office starting in the new year and paying probably around £17,000 basic.

The initial course has already selected 16 people, including a paleontologist, an ex-bank manager and a former secretary at the company, through a two-day assessment, but Logica plans to extend the scheme.

A spokesman for the company, which currently recruits around 500 people a year, said the course could feed in around 100 extra employees a year.

- Randeep Ramesh

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Virgin set to choose £300m tilting train bidder

Virgin Trains is considering plans to buy 75 tilting train sets as part of its order for Cross-Country, the sprawling rail franchise that covers the nation.

Four train-makers - Adtranz, Bombardier, Siemens and GEC Alsthom - have lined up to bid for the lucrative deal, which industry insiders say would be worth more than £300m.

With the announcement of the preferred bidder to be made this week, executives could see the value of the contract increase by up to 25 per cent.

If Richard Branson, the

chairman of Virgin, commits his company to the order - which would be in addition to the 55 high-speed trains for its West Coast operation - it would make him the "tilting train tycoon of Europe".

Managers at Virgin have been attracted by the huge time savings tilting trains would provide. Calculations suggest the twists and turns of many of CrossCountry's routes would see significant journey time reductions.

For example, the trip from Birmingham to Bristol, which can take more than one and a half hours, could be cut by 30 minutes.

The other advantage of tilting trains is that they allow higher frequencies on many routes. One lucrative service that would benefit is Birmingham to Manchester.

Any tilting train order for CrossCountry would seem to favour Adtranz and GEC - as both are also bidding to build tilting trains for Virgin's West Coast service. However industry sources point out that Virgin could lose out if it only chose one supplier.

- Randeep Ramesh

هذا من الأصل

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Food sector may be on the turn

is the UK food manufacturing sector finally on the turn? Yesterday's 21 per cent increase in half-year underlying profits at Hazlewood Foods, following decent figures from Northern Foods and Geest, suggests it is.

If so, it won't be before time. Shares in UK food producing companies have underperformed the market by some 15 per cent over the last five years. Dismal performances from individual stocks such as Dalgety and United Biscuits have hardly helped, while the BSE crisis has hammered those into red meat. There

proving sales mixes towards higher margins and rationalising their bases. With raw material prices now more stable, food stock share prices have already started to turn up.

Companies including Geest, Albert Fisher and Hazlewood have been moving out of commodity sectors into higher margin added-value products such as convenience foods where market growth is buoyant and barriers to entry are high.

Hazlewood impressed the market with a 10 per cent increase in underlying sales for the year to September and an improvement in margins.

To add to the rosier outlook, the dairy groups, particularly Unigate and Northern Foods are beginning to benefit from the rationalisation of their declining

should be avoided, stocks such as Unigate, Dairy Crest, Northern Foods, Hazlewood and Geest are still on relatively low ratings. They look good value.

Siebe exudes confidence

Barrie Stephens can retire a contented man. In 33 years the long-serving Siebe chairman, who presented his last set of results to the City yesterday, has taken the industrial controls and appliances group from a toddler with annual sales of £1.4m to a global engineering giant turning over more than £3bn.

On yesterday's evidence, that progress should continue. While other engineering companies grapple with the strong pound and the economic upheaval in the Far East, Siebe could hardly have sounded more confident.

Siebe had viewed the acquisition of troubled process engineer APV last May as a sign that Siebe was running out of steam. Not so. In just four months under Siebe's management, the unit's margins widened by two percentage points to 5.5 per cent. They should hit 10 per cent some time next year - well ahead of schedule.

What about the currency? True, knocking overseas profits into sterling knocked a cool £19m off Siebe's bottom line. But this is a one-off accounting effect. In fact, cheaper currencies have given some of Siebe's overseas operations a welcome competitive boost.

That's especially true of the Far Eastern markets, which account for 17 per cent of the company's sales. Siebe says it hasn't seen any demand weakness, and sees the shake-out as an opportunity to snap up selective acquisitions in the region.

With organic profits - excluding the effects of currencies and acquisitions - rising by over 20 per cent, the charge that Siebe needs deals to fuel growth also looks thin.

Indeed, the company has ruled out any large acquisitions for the time being, saying management has enough on its plate. With the full benefits from APV and an internal efficiency programme still to come, brokers have

pencilled in full-year profits of around £524m. That puts the shares, up 38p to 1163p, on a forward price/earnings ratio of 18. Given Siebe's record, not expensive.

Hogg Robinson on road to recovery

Hogg Robinson's share price has never recovered after the business travel to financial services group stunned investors with a profits warning last January. However yesterday's results, which showed a 21 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits to £14.5m for the six months to September, suggest it is on the road to recovery.

The transport division, which had proved to be the group's Achilles' heel over the last few years, has finally been off-loaded to its management team. Given the division's dwindling earnings, the £23m HR got for selling the business looks a good price.

HR is left with a fast-growing business travel subsidiary with excellent prospects. After a few hiccups Bennett, its Scandinavian travel agent, is performing well. The market for business travel is growing strongly and by securing more fee-based work the group is better placed than most to cope with a move by airlines to cut commissions to agents.

With £37.5m in the bank HR also has the financial fire-power to launch an acquisition spree. After earmarking £15m for an earnings-enhancing share buy-back it reckons it has another £65m up its sleeve, with travel businesses in North America and the Far East on the shopping list. The logic goes that HR will be able to win much more business if it can offer customers a travel service with global spread.

The one potential black spot is the financial services division. It still has its fair share of problems, with the pensions market struggling to shrug off the damage done by the mis-selling scandal, and HR is likely to be forced to dispose of some of the worst performing hits.

UBS forecasts full-year profits of £29m, putting the shares on a prospective PE ratio of 10. Trading on a 40 per cent discount to the market, HR shares, above 2p at 225p, look good value.

shares in two 40 years ago in order to allow various members of the family to raise some cash by selling non-voting shares, while retaining control. The company has got out of its original brewing business and now concentrates on developing pubs. Its three main brands are Fireside Inns, Bar Excellence and Slurping Toad. And now, not only can you invest in them, you can control them, too.

London Business School has plucked Professor John A Quelch from Harvard University to succeed its current principal Professor George Bain, who is going off to tell the Government all about the minimum wage.

The new man at the LBS is actually a Brit. Mr Quelch was born in London in 1951 and graduated from Exeter College, Oxford with a degree in history in 1972. He's been at Harvard in some shape or form since 1977, and is currently the Sebastian S Kresge Professor of Marketing. Lord Sainsbury of Turville, chairman of LBS's governing body, describes him as "the ideal man to lead the school."

If you're looking for a stocking filler for a loved one, how about Robert Alexander's racy new book, *The Voice of the People: A Constitution for Tomorrow*. OK, NatWest Group's chairman Lord Alexander hasn't turned out a bodice-ripper, exactly, but it's all worthy stuff, and probably played its part in getting the barrister-turned-banker onto Roy Jenkins's working party on constitutional reform this week. A NatWest spokesman tells me that since the tome's publication two months ago sales have gone quite well.

Just one thing occurs to me. NatWest has this year dropped around £600m on its investment banking operations, which it finally sold yesterday. Shouldn't Lord A have spent less time authoring and more time auditing?

As the late Roy Castle used to say, Jem Miller is a RECORD BREAKER. The jovial spin doctor retired last Friday from Lowe Bell Financial, although he will continue as a consultant for the firm.

Over his career Mr Miller spent 26 years representing Tate & Lyle, which many consider to be the longest ever PR account in the City. Any challengers? He has also represented Highland Distilleries since the mists of time.

Piers Pottinger, chairman of Lowe Bell Financial, says the firm will continue to present the annual "Jem Miller Award for most spectacular behaviour at a Christmas party."

One distinguished former employee won it for "taking a taxi home from the office party to the house he moved out of four years before," says Mr Pottinger. Jem originally won the prize many years ago for "cossack dancing at Cliveden (the posh Thames Valley hotel) in the most spectacular fashion," he adds.

Mr Miller, a native of Zimbabwe, is celebrating his retirement by buying a house in the South of France.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



No one expected Sam Chisholm, the recently departed chief executive and managing director of BSkyB, to be absent from the pay TV industry for long. Just weeks after stepping down from the driving seat at the satellite broadcaster, both Mr Chisholm and his deputy, David Chance, have re-emerged in the Polish television market.

But where Mr Chisholm and Mr Chance spent their time at Rupert Murdoch's satellite business scaring the living daylight out of the British cable companies, they will now sit on the board of the biggest Polish cable television operator, @Entertainment, as non-executive directors.

The company, which is quoted on Nasdaq, has 700,000 customers and is launching a digital service in April next year, roughly the same time that BSkyB is scheduled to launch its digital satellite service. Bob Fowler, chief executive officer of @Entertainment, said the assistance of the men from the Sky would be "invaluable".

The likes of Cable & Wireless Communications and Telewest Communications, the two largest cable companies in this country, must be pondering whether the dynamic duo could be tempted by a similar board position in the UK. After all, both men have an enviable reputation for turning around ailing businesses.

Another time-honoured tradition bites the dust. Jeremy Pope is scrapping the division between voting and non-voting shares in Eldridge Pope, which his father Phillip Pope introduced into the family pub business in 1951. From next year holders of non-voting shares will have full voting rights, the company seeks to gain support from a wider, institutional base.

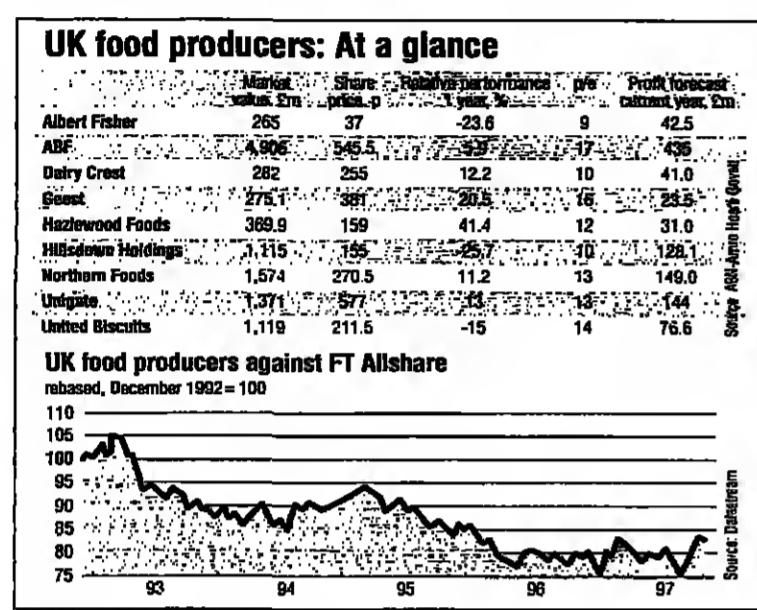
This is quite a step for Mr Pope, the fourth generation in the family, since non-family members haven't had a look-in until now. He describes it as a deck clearing exercise - "so that we're prepared for changes in the market."

His father, like Jeremy a lawyer, split the

executive, claimed that the 5.21 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £32m for the six months to September would act as "a springboard on which to launch a strong defence".

However Hercules yesterday proclaimed it was "underwhelmed" by the new figures and said they were at the bottom of analysts' expectations. Keith Elliott, chairman and chief executive of Hercules,

-Andrew Yates



have also been tough issues affecting the whole sector - pressure on margins from the cost-cutting supermarkets, rising raw material prices and restrained consumer spending.

Many of these problems have waned. And exchange rate factors have made the defensive qualities of the domestic food producers much more attractive. But the improvements do not end there. The trading environment is more benign, with all the big supermarkets, bar Safeway, enjoying decent sales growth. Consumers are spending more freely and food manufacturers have put their houses in order by offloading excess capacity, im-

proving sales mixes towards higher margins and rationalising their bases. Less attractive are companies with overseas earnings affected by the strength of sterling, such as Tate & Lyle and Cadbury Schweppes, while Unilever and Associated British Foods are already highly rated.

Its recent underperformance is likely to cast a cloud over the sector until strong trading results become a more frequent feature. And the deterioration in trading at Safeway could destabilise the supermarket groups and affect margins.

Indeed, the company has ruled out any large acquisitions for the time being, saying management has enough on its plate. With the full benefits from APV and an internal efficiency programme still to come, brokers have

Allied Colloids results slip-up reveals bid defence facts

It was red faces all round yesterday at Allied Colloids, the chemicals group attempting to fend off a £1.1bn hostile bid from US rival Hercules when it issued the wrong interim results statement to the Stock Exchange.

The original statement gave away facts Allied is likely to raise in its impending defence document. In it Allied predicted that exchange rates and raw material costs were unlikely to rise in

the next six months and that overheads had risen slower than sales. Schroders, Allied's brokers, blamed an administrative error.

Hercules called the handling of the results "shambolic" and said it was considering taking up the matter with the Takeover Panel. A spokesman for Allied said: "We are not embarrassed by the facts that have been revealed and stand by them."

David Farrar, Allied's chief

executive, claimed that the 5.21 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £32m for the six months to September would act as "a springboard on which to launch a strong defence".

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-Andrew Yates

Bass given go-ahead to buy Carlsberg-Tetley brewery

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, has given the green light for Bass's acquisition of Carlsberg-Tetley's brewery at Burton on Trent. The brewery was put up for sale after Ms Beckett's controversial decision to block Bass's acquisition of Carlsberg-Tetley's UK brewing business.

Carlsberg-Tetley warned the decision would lead to substantial job losses and forced it to sell off or close some breweries. Bass announced last month it would buy the Burton brewery and close two of its own breweries at Sheffield and Cardiff.

Sears sells Dolcis

Sears, the struggling retail group, has sold its Dolcis shoe chain to Alexon, the women's clothing retailer and Electra Fleming, the venture capital group. The deal involves 106 shops and the transfer of 1,500 staff. Sears will incur a net loss of £13m on the disposal. The sale is the first part of Sears' plan to sell or close its British Shoe Corporation division. Dolcis recorded a loss of around £8m on sales of £66m last year.

Dawson buys wholesaler

Dawson Holdings, the AIM-listed newspaper and magazine wholesaler, yesterday said it had agreed to acquire the wholesaling interests of Johnsons News for £32m. The acquisition will give Dawson 20 per cent of the UK newspaper and magazine wholesale market, the company said yesterday. Johnsons is the UK's fourth biggest newspaper and magazine wholesaler. Following the purchase, Dawson said it would have current turnover of £529m.

Laker's BA case dismissed

A court in Florida has thrown out a case brought against British Airways by Sir Freddie Laker, the longstanding opponent of the airline, over the allocation of take-off and landing slots at Gatwick Airport.

Sir Freddie had complained that BA effectively controlled the allocation of slots at the airport. Dick Wyatt, a BA employee, is this year's elected chairman of Gatwick Airport Co-ordination, which allocates slots. The US judge said the Laker action suffered from "both a procedural and substantive defect". BA said last night that it did not exert undue influence on the slot-allocation process and had just 26 per cent of slots at Gatwick.

Chrysalis Group, the television, radio and music company, is talking to Conde Nast, owner of *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*, about turning some of the publisher's best known magazines into television programmes.

Chrysalis said yesterday it was talking to Conde Nast about "masthead programming" - naming a television programme after a magazine. At present, the Independent Television Commission allows such programming on cable and satellite television, but will consider next spring whether magazine brands could be extended onto terrestrial television.

-Cathy Newman

COMPANY RESULTS				
	Turnover (£m)	Pre-tax (£m)	EPS	Dividend
Alba (I)	110.53m	79.28m	3.22m (1.43m)	4.76p (2.21p)
Allied Colloids (I)	246.98m	207.6m	32.05m (21.07m)	3.5p (2.75p)
Clydene (F)	107.83	111.36m	1.2m (5.4m)	5.53p (19.45p)
Dom Valley (I)	9.51m	5.92m	4.66m (3.01m)	2.4p (0.5p)
East Sussex Hedges (I)	24.43m	(24.12m)	10.78m (8.81m)	15.6p (13.29p)
Eldridge Pope (F)	63.82m	61.40m	5.4m (4.4m)	20.2p (18.6p)
Field Group (I)	117.7m	(108.5m)	12.02m (10.62m)	15.3p (13.3p)
General Cable (I)	81.85m	(38.57m)	37.8m (21.2m)	- (-)
Harrowden Foods (I)	380.9m	(368.5m)	10.0m (11.4m)	2.07p (2.4p)
Hogg Robinson (I)	789.72m	(759.85m)	1.9m (14.02m)	11.01p (8.97p)
Merrywines (I)	11.45m	(19.41m)	0.6	

progress

صياغة من الأهم

30/FOOTBALL

Time-scale threat to Shearer's sharpness

Alan Shearer will have just over a month of top-level football for Newcastle United in which to prove to Glenn Hoddle that he is ready to lead England's World Cup challenge.

Alan Nixon delivers the depressing news.

friendly, but he feels he will not be ready for a return to serious action for three more months.

"I'm running in straight lines, but I'm still not able to do any twisting or turning," he said.

"The pins have come out of the ankle and it is just a matter of mending in time. But I've not changed my mind. It's looking like March before I will play."

That time-scale is cutting things fine for Shearer to lead the line as England go for glory in France next June. The domestic programme finishes early in May, giving him just a handful of matches for Newcastle to help his club and boost his own chances of playing for England in the world's greatest football tournament.

Whether or not Shearer goes to France depends on the England coach, Glenn Hoddle.

"Obviously I will tell him how I feel and I'll be honest about it," Shearer said.

George Graham yesterday signed a £1m-a-year, long-term contract to manage Leeds until the end of the season.

Shearer is back in training after breaking his ankle and damaging ligaments in a pre-season

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Leonhardsen says Liverpool must copy United's formula

Liverpool midfielder Oyvind Leonhardsen is urging his team-mates to take a leaf out of Manchester United's book – to give themselves a chance of halting their arch rivals' relentless charge to the Premiership title.

Leonhardsen says there will be no shame in copying a few tricks of the trade from Old Trafford, as long as the Anfield set can learn to do them even better. He sees consistency as the byword for United's success and insists Liverpool need to emulate.

The Norwegian international spelled out the challenge for Liverpool as they prepare for their showdown with United at Anfield on Saturday. Many see this game as crucial to the rest of Liverpool's season, and it could be one of the last chances for anyone to halt the runaway men from Old Trafford scooping the top prize again.

Leonhardsen stressed: "We have to learn to be like United, to string together a consistent run of results. They do it. Sometimes they look like they are playing in second gear, but they can rattle off the right sort of results week after week."

It is that awesome power that is leaving many of the expected big-name challengers trailing in United's wake. It is happening to Arsenal, who are four points off the pace; after losing at Highbury to Liverpool on Sunday, and it is happening to Newcastle – seven points adrift after losing at Bolton yesterday.

Liverpool, still six points adrift, know only too well how damaging defeat by lowly Barnsley was in their last home game, while Blackburn learnt

the hard way at Old Trafford at the weekend.

Now it is up to Liverpool to halt the red steamroller, and Leonhardsen said: "They have improved so much even in a year. Last season they were losing Champions' League games at Juventus. This time around they are playing so well in Europe."

"In that year they have won the championship again, their players have gained from that experience in Europe and it shows. I watched them beat Kosice on TV last week, and they looked in second gear at times – but it was so comfortable."

"They are more composed and confident now. A team that wins all the time becomes more and more confident."

United's recent results are awesome – seven, six, five and four goals against Barnsley, Sheffield Wednesday, Wimborne and Blackburn respectively.

Liverpool, in the same period, have managed to lose to Everton, West Ham and Barnsley. Leonhardsen said: "We need to seek a tonic after the Aussies' World Cup exit on the away-goal rule in their play-off with Iraq last weekend."

"We were told we had to get four points from two games against Arsenal and United or we could forget the championship. Well, we have got three already after our win at Highbury. It is now up to us to continue that level of performance and form against United."

"We must get points against the bigger teams. We worked hard in training the week after the Barnsley defeat. We just have to keep it going. To play well as a team, a unit that gets things right – like United do."

John Hartson's two goals in Saturday's 2-1 win over Aston Villa gave him 16 in 19 Premiership games this season. Tonight he can add to that total when the Hammers face Crystal Palace in their rearranged game at Upton Park.

Hartson has consistently hit the target despite the loss of his front-line partner Paul Kitson, who has been out since September following surgery to repair a torn groin muscle.

Tonight's re-run of a match abandoned because of flood-light failure with the score at 2-2 should involve West Ham's Australian winger Stan Lazaridis, due for his first Premiership outing since a groin injury in September. He will also be seeking a tonic after the Aussies' World Cup exit on the away-goal rule in their play-off with Iraq last weekend.

Midfielder Frank Lampard, looks set to miss out because he is still suffering from the flu virus which caused his late withdrawal before the Villa game. Andy Impey also failed a late test on a toe injury on Saturday and is again a doubtful starter.

Palace are set to rule out their captain, Andy Roberts, who was replaced after just 15 minutes of Saturday's home defeat by Newcastle, while strikers Bruce Dyer and Michele Padovano are having injuries.

The former Wolves pair Neil Embleton and Jamie Smith are standing by for starting places.

The West Ham manager, Harry Redknapp, yesterday denied reports that he wanted to buy Everton's £1m-rated wing-back Andy Hinchliffe.

"We are the same as everyone else, we would like to get more players in but it has to be good quality, if we find them I will buy them. Goals were hard to come by, but we got into their box enough, we just couldn't finish."

"Liverpool and Manchester United have both only drawn at Bolton, but we couldn't quite manage that."

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We are ready to face anybody insists Hoddle

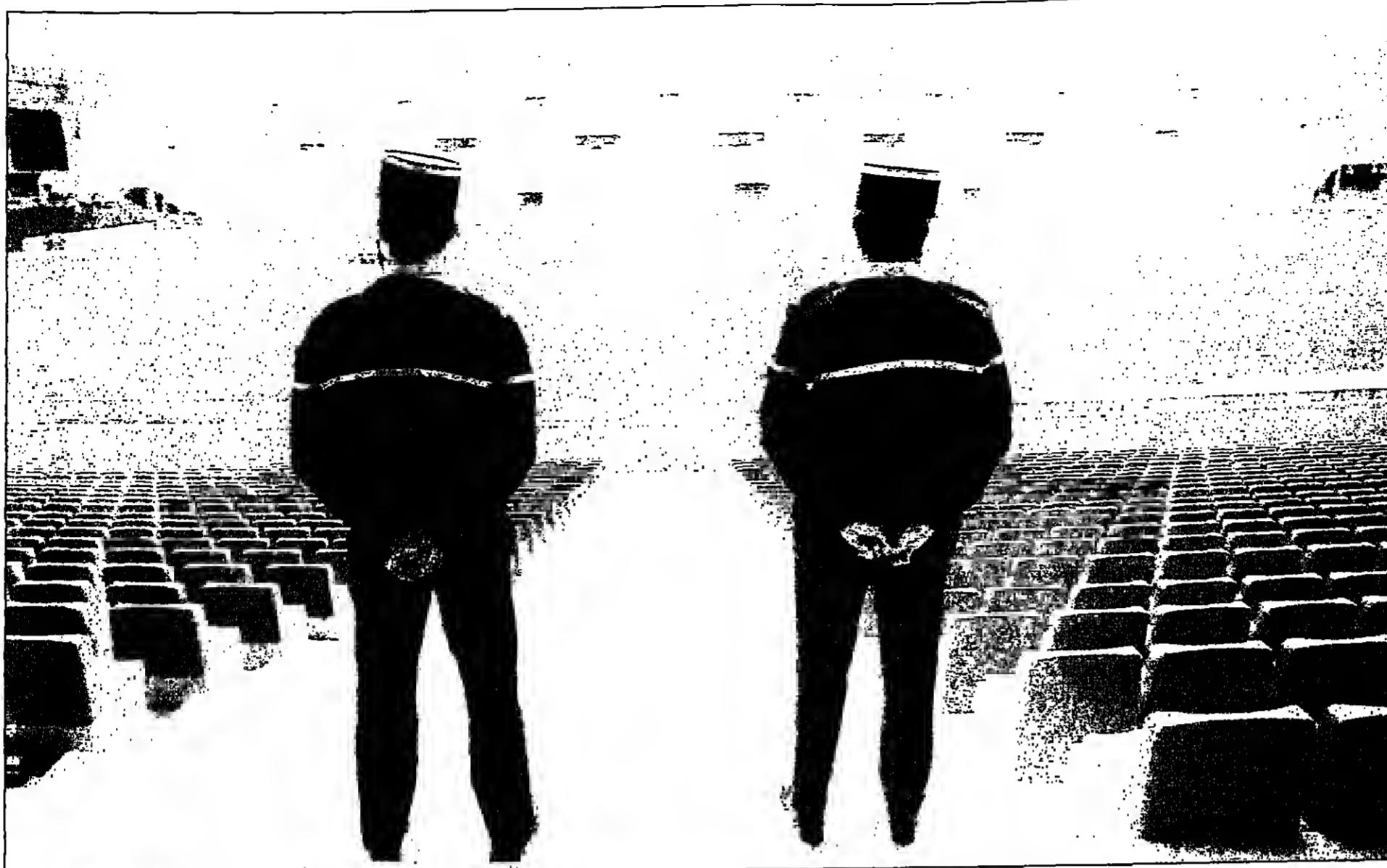
England and Scotland's World Cup hopes will rest on the vagaries of tomorrow night's draw in the Stade Velodrome. Both were yesterday placed in the same 'pot' but could yet be paired together. Glenn Moore, in Marseilles, considers their possible fates.

If the Gods are smiling on England at the Stade Velodrome tomorrow night they will be paired with Brazil, Jamaica and Iran. If they are looking the other way, they could be thrown in with Brazil, Nigeria and Croatia.

The same applies to Scotland, who were placed in the same banding as England when Fifa finally revealed how the World Cup draw will be decided. However, due to the complexities of the system England and Scotland could be drawn together - and if they were it would be with either Brazil or Argentina as the group seeds.

As revealed in later editions of yesterday's *Independent*, an inner cabal of Fifa's executive committee decided, in the Hotel Sofitel here late on Monday night, that England would not be among the seeds. Using a complex formula taking into account the last three World Cups and three years of Fifa rankings, they selected Germany, Italy, Spain, Argentina, Romania and the Netherlands to join the hosts, France, and the holders, Brazil, as the seeds.

This proposal was accepted by the full executive committee yesterday. The remaining 24 teams have been divided geographically so as to ensure each group will have, as far as possible, two European sides, one South American or Asian, and one African or North/Central American. The consequence of this will be a draw of considerable drama and length - there will be more than 50 individual acts of pulling balls out of pots. It will inevitably throw up a "group of death" and also offers the possibility of Croatia being paired with Yugoslavia, Iran



Guard of gendarmes: French police watch over the Marseilles stadium before tomorrow's draw for the 1998 World Cup

Jean-Paul Pelissier/Reuters

with the United States, and England with Italy.

England's failure to be seeded was not a surprise to the FA, but it was to the wider world. Glenn Hoddle was bullish about his team's prospects. "Not being seeded was not a surprise to me," he said. "The lesson is to make sure we never fail to qualify again. Whatever we get we'll handle. We had a tough qualifying group and we won it. We'll take what comes."

"I won't lose any sleep if we are pitched in with Brazil. If we beat them or lose to them there are still two other matches and then we won't play them until we reach the final. It would be an advantage if we have Brazil in our group. What we don't want is Brazil, Nigeria, Croatia. We don't want a group of death. We had a bit of that in the qualifiers."

"I know the coaches of the seeded countries will turn up and say 'I hope we avoid England'."

"I'm getting a taste for it now. I'm very excited and I'm ready for it. When I'm out of a

job I'll look back on this time fondly. Personally I wish we were starting now - then I think of a fellow called Alan Shearer and I don't mind waiting."

Craig Brown, the Scotland coach, was less keen on facing Brazil, who beat Scotland in 1974, 1982 and 1990. "I would like to avoid them and Romania," he said, "but I would take Germany, Italy or any other seed. England would be all right, although there may be logistic problems with both sets of

fans moving at the same time. We're not frightened of them, nor is it a case of seeking revenge for Euro '96. All the teams know Scotland can give them a hard game. All their coaches know we're capable of caking out a result."

Both teams received good news yesterday when Fifa decided not to suspend players who had received a second yellow card in their final qualifying game; only dismissed players will be penalised. This releases Sol Campbell for

England and John Collins for Scotland.

The implications of failing to qualify also became more apparent to nations like the Republic of Ireland and Australia when it was revealed that each country will receive nearly £2m for qualifying. Each appearance after the quarter-finals will reap another £1m as well as the obvious spin-offs.

The French had wanted to allocate all the seeds in order to concentrate the Dutch and Germans in the north and Italians and

Spanish in the south, but Fifa refused. They are trying to ensure the draw appears fair and, despite doubts, it looks as if it may be. Even the old cold balls-warm balls trick is unlikely to work in the near-zero temperatures. Besides, as Sweden's Lennart Johansson, chairman of the executive committee, said: "If we pre-arranged too much there wouldn't be much of a draw left."

Fifa have decided in future to avoid the undignified lobbying for seeding which has characterised the build-up to this draw by determining the procedure for the 2002 World Cup before the qualifiers start. "The only thing which needs adjusting is how a team who got through the backdoor of the play-offs is seeded," said Hoddle. "But," he added, "to look at it from Italy's point of view, if we had not been seeded after being runners-up and semi-finalists at the last two World Cups we would have been peed."

Shearer threat, page 30

HOW THE DRAW WILL WORK

The draw will split the 32 teams into eight groups (A-H) of four. Group winners and runners-up will go on to the second-round.

The draw is designed to ensure there are not two South American teams or three European teams in the same group. For the purposes of the draw, the teams have been split into four pots:

Seeds: Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Argentina, Romania, Netherlands.

Pot A (Africa and Central America): Cameroon, Jamaica, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Tunisia, South Africa, United States.

Pot B (Europe): Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, Finland, Norway, Yugoslavia.

Pot C (South America and Asia): Chile, Colombia, Iran, Japan, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, South Korea.

Brazil will be named as team A1 (the seed in Group A) and France C1.

The other six seeded teams will be drawn in order B1, D1, E1, F1, G1, H1.

A draw will determine which pot is drawn next. Whenever Pot A is drawn, the eight teams will be placed in order A-H as they emerge.

If Pot B is drawn before Pot C the first eight drawn will be placed A-H as they emerge. The remaining European team will be placed with either Argentina or Brazil (another draw determines which of the two).

When Pot C is drawn it will be ensured that the three South American teams are not drawn with the remaining South American seed (Argentina or Brazil). If Pot C is drawn before Pot B, one European team will be drawn first and placed with either Argentina or Brazil (another draw).

Pot C will then be drawn, making sure the three South American teams are not drawn with the remaining South American seed (Argentina or Brazil). In this scenario the remaining eight teams in Pot F-G will then be placed A-H as they emerge.

Apart from the seeds, each time a pot is drawn there will be a name allotted to determine the allocation of the 16 slots in the B2, B3 or C2 match tickets.

edge to remove the star of crime

Punishment still haunts England for riot in Rome

The Football Association's assertion that Italians caused the crowd trouble at England's World Cup qualifier in Rome looks like being vindicated by Fifa. Yet England may still be punished, says Glenn Moore in Marseilles.

Fifa's investigation into October's riot in Rome is being passed from committee to committee like a bottle being lobbed

over a fence hut, when it finally comes to land in the public domain, it is likely to conclude that the Football Association got it right. But football's world governing body may fine the FA.

The FA's own report into the violence on 11 October blamed Italian ticket arrangements and policing for the running battles between England fans and Italian police in the Stadio Olimpico. The World Cup Organising Committee, which yesterday referred its investigation back to the disciplinary committee, "acknowledged that there were

lessons to be learnt with regard to better control of tickets to fans through unauthorised channels". It added: "While Fifa did not have authority over the police forces the methods used by the police should be better adapted to the specific requirements of football."

With the police out of Fifa's reach, it is the Italian FA which will suffer for the poor organisation. Yet the FA's report ignored the effect of two days' intimidatory behaviour before the match by a substantial minority of the England supporters in Rome. It also appeared

to ignore the small minority who relished the terrace fight with the *carabinieri*.

Fifa is not being so blind. While it is likely to agree that the FA did all in its power with regard to ticket arrangements Fifa indicated yesterday that England will still be penalised in an effort to deter similar behaviour by travelling supporters.

Sanctions are expected to be financial although more draconian punishments are available. These include forcing either or both national sides to play their next World Cup qualifier behind closed doors or out

of the country. Or, in England's case, banning travelling support.

A final decision is not expected until the new year.

The decision is inevitably linked to the continuing campaign to encourage the French to allow a fence-free World Cup.

Of the 10 venues only Nantes and St Etienne have to be persuaded to take perimeter fences down. Vertical segregation fences will remain, however.

"Fences can become death traps, as we saw as recently as October 1996 in Guatemala," Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of Fifa, said. "In England and Scotland they have taken fences away and shown that spectators who sit down without fences are not aggressive. If you put people behind bars they are aggressive: bars are for prisoners and animals, not for humans."

Blatter agreed that some supporters still needed to be "educated - you don't see people throwing bottles at the theatre" and he said security would take into account the nature of matches. This does not, noted one official, just mean England games: "There are other countries to worry about."

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